

(b) (6)

## PO1 USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)

---

**From:** (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 21, 2020 9:10 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) CIV USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA)  
**Cc:** (b) (6) LT USN NPASE WEST SAN CA (USA)  
**Subject:** Captions and Hashtag  
**Signed By:** (b) (6)

Sir,

We are using this as general captions for now:

Military Sealift Command Hospital Ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) [on loads supplies or whatever action in the photo] in support of the nation's COVID-19 response efforts. Mercy will treat non-COVID-19 patients which will allow local health professionals to further focus on treating COVID-19 patients.

Also, this was the hashtag we discussed on the phone. I know there is a fine line between our supporting role and looking like we are leading the charge, but I think this still works! #ReadyOnArrival

Very Respectfully,

LT (b) (6) APR+M  
Deputy Public Affairs Officer  
Commander, U.S. Third Fleet  
COMM: (b) (6)  
DSN: (b) (6)  
NIPR: (b) (6)  
SIPR: (b) (6)

(b) (6)

**PO1 USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)**

---

**From:** (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 25, 2020 11:21 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) CDR USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)  
**Subject:** DRAFT COVID-19 Mercy RTQ  
**Attachments:** 20200325 DRAFT RTQ MERCY Underway Personnel Transported Off.docx

Good morning Sir,

Attached is my draft RTQ for the two personnel transported off Mercy due to their contact with positive COVID-19 individuals.

Standing by for any questions or concerns.

Very respectfully,

LT (b) (6)  
P-Deputy Public Affairs Officer  
Commander, U.S. Third Fleet

(b) (6)

DRAFT

UNCLASSIFIED//FOUO

DRAFT

DRAFT

Commander, U.S. Third Fleet

(b) (5) [Redacted]  
(b) (5) [Redacted]  
[Redacted]

(b) (5) [Redacted]

[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
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- [Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
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[Redacted]

DRAFT

DRAFT

DRAFT

(b) (5)



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(b) (6), (b) (5)



A single line of text is completely redacted with a black bar.



A large block of text is completely redacted with a black bar.



A large block of text is completely redacted with a black bar.

(b) (6) **PO1 USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)**

---

**From:** (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 26, 2020 12:45 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) LT; (b) (6) LCDR  
**Cc:** (b) (6) PO2 USN (USA)  
**Subject:** Fw: [Non-DoD Source] C-SPAN TELEVISION Phoner Request

MERCY Team,

Below is a request from C-SPAN for a 5-minute interview.

V/r,  
LT (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) LT USN SECOND FLEET (USA)  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 26, 2020 12:35 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) LT USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA); (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)  
**Cc:** (b) (6) CDR USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA); (b) (6) LCDR USN (US); (b) (6) CDR USN (USA);  
(b) (6) CIV USN NAVSUPPACT MECH PA (USA)  
**Subject:** RE: [Non-DoD Source] C-SPAN TELEVISION Phoner Request

Thanks! Will reach out to the reporter.

Very Respectfully,

(b) (6)

Lt (b) (6)  
U.S. Second Fleet  
Deputy Public Affairs Officer  
COMM: (b) (6)  
CELL- (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) LT USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 26, 2020 3:34 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>; (b) (6) LT USN  
SECOND FLEET (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Cc:** (b) (6) CDR USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>; (b) (6) LCDR USN (US)  
<(b) (6)>; (b) (6) CDR USN (USA) <(b) (6)>; (b) (6) CIV USN  
NAVSUPPACT MECH PA (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** RE: [Non-DoD Source] C-SPAN TELEVISION Phoner Request

---

**From:** (b) (6) LT USN (USA) on behalf of Chinfo Duty Officer  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 26, 2020 2:06 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) LT USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA)  
**Subject:** FW: [Non-DoD Source] C-SPAN TELEVISION

---

**From:** (b) (6) LTC USARMY OSD PA (USA) (b) (6) >  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 26, 2020 1:57 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) <(b) (6)>  
**Cc:** Chinfo Duty Officer <Chinfo.DutyOffic.FCT@navy.mil>  
**Subject:** RE: [Non-DoD Source] C-SPAN TELEVISION

Hi (b) (6),

I'll refer you to the Navy for this request. Their media inbox is on the 'cc' line. Hope all is well.

V/R,

(b) (6)  
Lt. Col. (b) (6) APR+M  
DoD Spokesperson - Middle East / Central Asia  
Office of the Secretary of Defense  
Pentagon, Room 2D961  
Email: (b) (6)  
Desk Phone: (b) (6)  
Gov't Cell: (b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6) <(b) (6)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 26, 2020 1:55 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) LTC USARMY OSD PA (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] C-SPAN TELEVISION

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

---

Lt. Col. (b) (6)

Hope your well and staying healthy. I wanted to reach out to put a request in for the coming days, If the Mercy or Comfort ends up being use at either NY or LA would it be possible to get a 5min phone interview with one of the Captains?

Many thanks as always in advance

(b) (6)  
Producer/Line Producer, Washington Journal  
<image001.png>  
400 N. Capitol St. NW I Suite 650 I Washington, DC 20001  
C-SPAN, Networks  
(b) (6)  
(b) (6) mobile  
(b) (6) < Caution-mailto: (b) (6) >  
[c-span.org](http://c-span.org) < Caution-http://c-span.org >

@cspanwj

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(b) (6)

## PO1 USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)

**From:** (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 26, 2020 2:13 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) LT'; (b) (6) LCDR'  
**Subject:** FW: [Non-DoD Source] Media request/USNS Mercy mission

Good afternoon MERCY team,

USNI interview request is below.

Very respectfully,

LT (b) (6)  
P-Deputy Public Affairs Officer  
Commander, U.S. Third Fleet

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 26, 2020 12:15 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) (b) (6)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Media request/USNS Mercy mission

Lt. (b) (6),

Hi. Following up on yesterday, I'm interested in speaking with several people for U.S. Naval Institute News online about USNS Mercy's contribution and role in supporting the COVID19 response. (I've been a regular contributor to USNI News, online at [www.news.usni.org](http://www.news.usni.org), and live here in southern California, so I can do phoners or in-person interviews whichever they prefer.)

I have a few questions regarding the MTF and medical mission; some perhaps you can assist me with. I'd like to interview some SMEs as well on these if we can arrange when they're available to speak with me. I realize things are fluid. Please let me know if any of these would be handled by the FEMA folks.

\*What will MERCY's embarked MTF role in supporting the COVID19 response mission?

\*What's the process for identifying, receiving and treating patients? Leadership had mentioned, at the Pentagon briefing, that patients will be referred or sent to the ship from local providers/facilities; are there specific ones the MTF will work with in doing that? Who and at what levels are those decisions made for those patient transfers?

\*How long will patients remain aboard MERCY? What criteria is being used for those determinations?

\*What testing and health measures have and are being done for all personnel aboard MERCY, to include the MTF personnel, ship's crew and others aboard, reporting aboard as well as continuing through the duration of the mission?

\* Can you provide a rundown of the specialties and capabilities aboard set up for this COVID19 mission?



\*Is the CDC, NIH or other state and federal health/medical personnel aboard and working with the MTF? What's the reporting chain for data on patient admissions, COVID19 cases?

\*In what areas are the Navy Reservists contributing to the mission?

\*Are there other non-medical Navy (AD or reserve) or other services' support provided to MERCY for this mission? If so would they be part of the MTF?

\*Are there civilian medical/health professionals augmenting and supporting the MTF aboard MERCY for this mission?

Also please let me know if you have any questions or suggestions on this query. I appreciate the help. Thank you.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Freelance writer/journalist  
Military/veteran issues  
Oceanside, CA USA

e. (b) (6)

c. (b) (6)

o. (b) (6)

On 3/25/2020 3:35 PM, (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) wrote:

(b) (6)

It was great to talk to you on the phone this afternoon!

Standing by for your queries and interview requests, and we will get you connected with the right people.

Very respectfully,

LT (b) (6)

P-Deputy Public Affairs Officer  
Commander, U.S. Third Fleet

(b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Cc:** (b) (6) CDR USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA); (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)  
**Subject:** FW: CNN b-roll  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 24, 2020 7:16:54 AM

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(b) (6) -

Request for what the “plan” is today (and we will need the plan for every day underway) along with an immediate request for b-roll of the ship underway.

Please ack- unsure what email to use to get you right now

(b) (6)

Sent with BlackBerry Work  
(www.blackberry.com)

---

**From:** (b) (6) T CAPT USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Date:** Tuesday, Mar 24, 2020, 7:00 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) CIV USN COMSC NORFOLK VA (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) CDR USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) CAPT USN NPASE NORFOLK VA (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) CDR USN NPASE NORFOLK VA (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Cc:** (b) (6) LCDR USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA) <(b) (6)>, CHINFONEWSDESK <[PTGN\\_CHINFONEWSDESK@navy.mil](mailto:PTGN_CHINFONEWSDESK@navy.mil)>, (b) (6) CIV USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) CIV USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** RE: CNN b-roll

Recommend Media Team onboard discuss option for “Media City” or some time slot during the day where they are able to have dedicated bandwidth (minus leadership) for 15-30 minutes to push heavy content.

Can't be greedy, but this works if the Its can just give us a direct hit for a few minutes.

V/r,

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) CIV USN COMSC NORFOLK VA (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 24, 2020 9:52 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) CIV USN COMSC NORFOLK VA (USA) <(b) (6)>; (b) (6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)>; (b) (6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) CDR USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) CAPT USN NPASE NORFOLK VA (USA) <(b) (6)>

<(b) (6)>; (b) (6) CDR USN NPASE NORFOLK VA (USA)

<(b) (6)>

**Cc:** (b) (6) LCDR USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA) <(b) (6)>  
CHINFONEWSDESK <PTGN\_CHINFONEWSDESK@navy.mil>; (b) (6) CIV USN CHINFO  
WASHINGTON DC (USA) <(b) (6)> (b) (6) CIV USN CHINFO  
WASHINGTON DC (USA) <(b) (6)>

**Subject:** FW: CNN b-roll

+NPASE.

Per our N6:

MERCY has been given a total of 16 Mbps (8 on C band / 8 on X band) of satellite bandwidth. This is equivalent to what a carrier normally receives during normal operations. Should be able to send video as long as they are taking a reasonable approach regarding duration/file size... and as long as the embarked crew isn't soaking up the bandwidth with social media access/usage.

Thanks, (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) CDR USN (USA) <(b) (6)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 24, 2020 9:06 AM

**To:** (b) (6) CIV USN COMSC NORFOLK VA (USA) <(b) (6)>; (b) (6)  
(b) (6) CAPT USN USSFC (USA) <(b) (6)>; (b) (6) CAPT USN USSFC  
(USA) <(b) (6)> (b) (6) CDR USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)  
<(b) (6)> (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)  
<(b) (6)>

**Cc:** (b) (6) LCDR USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA) <(b) (6)>  
CHINFONEWSDESK <PTGN\_CHINFONEWSDESK@navy.mil>; (b) (6) CIV USN CHINFO  
WASHINGTON DC (USA) <(b) (6)> (b) (6) CIV USN CHINFO  
WASHINGTON DC (USA) <(b) (6)>

**Subject:** CNN b-roll

Team,

Can we push video of MER at sea ISO/ahead of Blitzler piece? What are ship's transmission capabilities? Thanks.

V/R,

(b) (6)

CDR (b) (6)  
Assistant Chief of Information  
Media Operations  
U.S. Navy CHINFO  
(b) (6)

(b) (6) **PO1 USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)**

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**From:** (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 24, 2020 12:19 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) LCDR; (b) (6) LT'  
**Cc:** (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA); (b) (6) SCPO USN DMA  
PROD (USA)  
**Subject:** FW: COVID-19 Content for ATH  
**Signed By:** (b) (6)

Please see below regarding production. Heavy push required.

---

**From:** (b) (6) CDR USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 24, 2020 12:19 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)> (b) (6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA)  
<(b) (6)>; (b) (6) CDR USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>; (b) (6)  
LCDR USN (US) <(b) (6)>; (b) (6) LT USN SECOND FLEET (USA)  
<(b) (6)>; (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)> (b) (6)  
(b) (6) CDR USN BUMED FCH VA (USA)' <(b) (6)>; (b) (6) CIV USN COMSC  
NORFOLK VA (USA) <(b) (6)>; (b) (6) CIV USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA)  
<(b) (6)> (b) (6) CIV USN DNS (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** FW: COVID-19 Content for ATH

Team,

FYSA, wanted you to be aware of some thoughts from CI regarding digital media engagement/production aboard the ships. We can talk more about this during the 1700 call.

V/R

(b) (6)

CDR (b) (6) APR+M  
Assistant Chief of Information  
Communication Integration  
U.S. Navy Office of Information (CHINFO)  
Comm: (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) RDML USN (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Date:** Tuesday, Mar 24, 2020, 11:42 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) CDR USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Cc:** (b) (6) RDML CHINFO, OI-00 <(b) (6)>; (b) (6) CIV USN CHINFO  
WASHINGTON DC (USA) <(b) (6)> <(b) (6)> CIV USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC  
(USA) <(b) (6)> <(b) (6)> CTR (USA)  
<(b) (6)> <(b) (6)> CDR USN (USA) <(b) (6)> <(b) (6)> CIV  
USN DNS (USA) <(b) (6)> <(b) (6)> LCDR USN (USA) <(b) (6)> <(b) (6)>  
(b) (6) LT USN (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** RE: COVID-19 Content for ATH

Thanks (b) (6). These are fine, but I'm looking for more first-hand communication directly from med care providers.

Think about it like a cross between PBS's Carrier and Grey's Anatomy or Scrubs or MASH whatever – we need to introduce our audience to the Navy pers who are going to be providing care and develop characters like a reality show. Imagine if the NPASE people aboard MERCY and COMFORT are documentary producers. Put together a show.

---

**From:** (b) (6) CDR USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 24, 2020 11:37 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) RDML USN (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Cc:** (b) (6) RDML CHINFO, OI-00 <(b) (6)>; (b) (6) CIV USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA) <(b) (6)>; (b) (6) CIV USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA) <(b) (6)>; (b) (6) com>; (b) (6) CTR (USA) <(b) (6)>; (b) (6) CDR USN (USA) <(b) (6)>; (b) (6) CIV USN DNS (USA) <(b) (6)>; (b) (6) LCDR USN (USA) <(b) (6)>; (b) (6) A LT USN (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** COVID-19 Content for ATH

Sir,

Per our discussion this morning regarding digital media content and wanting to portray the “human” side of the Navy’s fight against COVID-19, I wanted to share some engagements (b) (6) is working for ATH. Standing by for your feedback/thoughts.

V/R

(b) (6)

CDR (b) (6) APR+M  
Assistant Chief of Information  
Communication Integration  
U.S. Navy Office of Information (CHINFO)  
Comm: (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) <(b) (6)>  
**Date:** Tuesday, Mar 24, 2020, 11:29 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) CDR USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA) <(b) (6)>; (b) (6) CIV USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] COVID-19 Content for ATH

Hi (b) (6)

OI-5 is working to put up COVID-related content on ATH. We have 2 engagements in the works featuring Sailors, described below. Additionally, attached are drafts of COVID-related Instagram posts for ATH utilizing DVIDS photos.

Please let me know if you have any additional guidance or reservations on the content and I will proceed with scheduling them.

- Takeover:
  - Who: PO1 (b) (6) Corpsman based in Japan
    - Profile: (b) (6) (13.2k followers on Instagram, 58.6k on YouTube)

- What: Host an ATH takeover to show a healthcare perspective related to COVID-19, including self-care tips, advice on caring for friends/families, and ensuring an appropriate degree of precautions.
- He has already posted COVID-related videos to YouTube:  
(b) (6)
- Fitness and Wellness Video
  - Who: (b) (6) Corpsman based in California
    - Profile: (b) (6) (5k followers on Instagram)
  - What: a short video or series of videos showing a fitness/wellness routine that viewers can do at home, as well as highlighting her role as a corpsman and the importance of staying home.

V/R

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

OI-5, Communication Strategy  
Navy Office of Information (CHINFO)  
1200 Navy Pentagon, Room 4B463  
Washington DC, 20350-1200

Office: (b) (6)

Cell: (b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6) **PO1 USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)**

---

**From:** (b) (6) LT USN NPASE WEST SAN CA (USA)  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 19, 2020 1:36 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) CDR USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)  
**Subject:** FW: MERCY On Load B-roll

Sir,

Forwarding as you had requested earlier.

Very respectfully,

LT (b) (6)  
P-Deputy Public Affairs Officer  
Commander, U.S. Third Fleet

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) CIV USN COMSC (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 19, 2020 1:35 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) LT USN NPASE WEST SAN CA (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** RE: MERCY On Load B-roll

Ma'am (sorry about the sir earlier)

I will do my best to help out. I don't have a whole lot of control at the pier, or getting anyone onto the ship. I have the same problems as everyone else, but I will try to give my contacts on the ship a heads-up that the MCs will be around. (b) (6) is really the go to person here, since the pier is on the base. We'll work it out. We are all in this together.

V/R

---

**From:** (b) (6) LT USN NPASE WEST SAN CA (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 19, 2020 1:29 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) CIV USN COMSC (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Cc:** (b) (6) CDR USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>; (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>; (b) (6) LT USN NPASE WEST SAN CA (USA) <(b) (6)>; (b) (6) SCPO USN DMA PROD (USA) <(b) (6)>; (b) (6) (MCC) CPO USN NPASE WEST SAN CA (USA) <(b) (6)>; (b) (6) CIV USN NAVBASE SAN DIEGO CA (US) <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** RE: MERCY On Load B-roll

(b) (6),

I put (b) (6) (32<sup>nd</sup> St. PAO) on the cc line to make sure she didn't need anything from us, and for her situational awareness!

Understand you don't have any issues with it, but would you please coordinate this visit with the ship? I'm tracking pretty much all day on loads this weekend, and I want to make sure the MCs are a known quantity on the pier so they do not get refused due to the amount of "hustle and bustle". Also, CDR (b) (6) would like you to escort to ensure there are no issues.

Standing by for any questions!

Also, just as a side note, I'm a woman. I know the first name can be awfully confusing!

Very respectfully,

LT (b) (6)  
P-Deputy Public Affairs Officer  
Commander, U.S. Third Fleet

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) CIV USN COMSC (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 19, 2020 1:15 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) LT USN NPASE WEST SAN CA (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** RE: MERCY On Load B-roll

Sir,

This shouldn't be a problem...I am planning to go over to shoot stills tomorrow. I don't know of any special requirements to shoot over there. No one has said anything to me. I can hit you back when I get back to my office. If you are really concerned, I would reach out to Base PAO, but I don't see why they would keep us from being on the pier. You guys are in uniform. I'm a civilian. If anything, they will give me a challenge first. I'll let you know what I find out.

V/R

---

**From:** (b) (6) LT USN NPASE WEST SAN CA (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 19, 2020 1:11 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) CIV USN COMSC (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Cc:** (b) (6) CDR USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>; (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>; (b) (6) LT USN NPASE WEST SAN CA (USA) <(b) (6)>; (b) (6) SCPO USN DMA PROD (USA) <(b) (6)>; (b) (6) (MCC) CPO USN NPASE WEST SAN CA (USA) <(b) (6)>; (b) (6) CIV USN NAVBASE SAN DIEGO CA (US) <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** MERCY On Load B-roll

Good afternoon (b) (6),

Reaching out to see the feasibility of having two C3F MCs go to the MERCY pier this weekend to obtain B-roll of the equipment on load.

Understand that getting on board the ship itself is NOT an option, and completely understand; requesting only pier access.



Please let me know how we can work through this, and if you'd like to chat I'll be at my desk all day and tomorrow!

Very respectfully,

LT (b) (6)  
P-Deputy Public Affairs Officer  
Commander, U.S. Third Fleet

(b) (6)

(b)(6)

**PO1 USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)**

---

**From:** (b)(6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 22, 2020 5:37 PM  
**To:** (b)(6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)  
**Subject:** FW: RDML (b)(6) Updated Remarks  
**Attachments:** 200322\_NMRTC San Diego COVID-19 Positive Cases.docx; Notice 004-Four NMCSDEmployees Test Positive for COVID-19.docx

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b)(6) CIV USN NAVMED WEST SAN CA (USA)  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 22, 2020 5:21 PM  
**To:** (b)(6) A LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)  
<(b)(6)>  
**Subject:** RE: RDML (b)(6) Updated Remarks

Hi there!

I've attached the news release NMCSDE is putting out and the briefing card.  
CDR (b)(6) has it as well.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thank you!

(b)(6)

Public Affairs Officer  
Naval Medical Forces Pacific

O: (b)(6)

C: (b)(6)

DSN: (b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b)(6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)  
[mailto:(b)(6)]

Sent: Sunday, March 22, 2020 4:57 PM

To: (b)(6) CIV USN NAVMED WEST SAN CA (USA)

<(b)(6)>

Subject: RE: RDML (b)(6) Updated Remarks

(b)(6),

Looking to see if you had a specific Q&A regarding the situation we discussed briefly on the phone tee'd up for tomorrow's prep session?

V/r,

(b)(6)

Very respectfully,

LT (b)(6)

P-Deputy Public Affairs Officer

Commander, U.S. Third Fleet

(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) E CIV USN NAVMED WEST SAN CA (USA)

<(b)(6)@mil>

Sent: Sunday, March 22, 2020 4:20 PM

To: (b)(6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)

<(b)(6)>

Cc: (b)(6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)

<(b)(6)>

Subject: RE: RDML (b)(6) Updated Remarks

Hi there!

Here are the updated docs...and his remarks are usually 16 pt font, double-spaced.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you both for everything!

(b)(6)  
Public Affairs Officer  
Naval Medical Forces Pacific  
O: (b)(6)  
C: (b)(6)  
DSN: (b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)  
[mailto:(b)(6)]  
Sent: Sunday, March 22, 2020 3:04 PM  
To: (b)(6) CIV USN NAVMED WEST SAN CA (USA)  
<(b)(6)>  
Cc: (b)(6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)  
<(b)(6) mil>  
Subject: RE: RDML (b)(6) Updated Remarks

(b)(6)

Not to worry, just wanted to check in!

Very respectfully,  
LT (b)(6)  
P-Deputy Public Affairs Officer  
Commander, U.S. Third Fleet

(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) CIV USN NAVMED WEST SAN CA (USA)  
<(b)(6)>

Sent: Sunday, March 22, 2020 2:58 PM

To: [REDACTED] LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)

<[REDACTED]>

Cc: [REDACTED] LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)

<[REDACTED]>

Subject: RE: RDML [REDACTED] Updated Remarks

Hi there!

He's looking them over right now and I should have them back to you soon.  
Sorry...we've had a few meetings back to back.

Thank you!

[REDACTED]  
(b)(6)

Public Affairs Officer

Naval Medical Forces Pacific

O: [REDACTED]  
(b)(6)

C: [REDACTED]  
(b)(6)

DSN: [REDACTED]  
(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED] LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)

[mailto:[REDACTED]]  
(b)(6)

Sent: Sunday, March 22, 2020 2:57 PM

To: [REDACTED] CIV USN NAVMED WEST SAN CA (USA)

<[REDACTED]>  
(b)(6)

Cc: [REDACTED] LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)

[REDACTED]>

Subject: RDML [REDACTED] Updated Remarks

[REDACTED]  
(b)(6)

Just checking in to see if you had the updated remarks for RDML [REDACTED].  
Looking to put the podium binder together soon!

Also, let me know if your boss has any specific requirements for his font/spacing for his remarks.

Thank you!

Very respectfully,

LT (b)(6)

P-Deputy Public Affairs Officer

Commander, U.S. Third Fleet

(b)(6)



## **BUMED BRIEFING CARD**

### **BUMED CORONAVIRUS CASE**

22 March 2020

**Background (FOUO):** As of March 22, 2020, Naval Medical Center San Diego (NMCS D) has tested a total of 492 patients for novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), of which 35 tested positive for COVID-19, including 4 NMCS D employees.

On March 17, NMCS D learned that two employees were confirmed positive for COVID-19. On March 19, NMCS D learned of a third employee who tested positive for COVID-19. NMCS D was made aware of its fourth most recent employee to be confirmed positive for COVID-19, March 21. All but one of the tests were facilitated through NMCS D. The fourth employee sought medical assessment after meeting the criteria for testing.

All four employees were directed to undergo self-quarantine at home in accordance with CDC guidelines. NMCS D conducted a thorough contact investigation to determine whether any other personnel, patients or visitors may have been in close contact and possibly exposed. The areas where the staff members worked have been aggressively sanitized using CDC guidelines.

**Statement:** Four employees tested positive for COVID-19, Naval Medical Center San Diego (NMCS D) announced today.

These cases have been reported to the State of California and are not additional cases.

All four employees sought medical assessment after exhibiting key respiratory symptoms, were tested and are undergoing self-quarantine in accordance with CDC guidelines.

Personnel with whom these employees have had close contact with were notified and are in self-isolation, in accordance with CDC guidelines.

Military health professionals are conducting a thorough contact investigation to determine whether any other personnel may have been in close contact and possibly exposed. Depending on the results of that investigation, additional measures may be taken.

The areas where the staff members worked were aggressively sanitized using CDC guidelines. NMCS D continues to implement increased cleaning measures throughout the hospital, and continues to cooperate with appropriate public health and regulatory agencies.

NMCSD remains open and continues its mission of providing safe, high quality patient care, while taking all measures available to protect its patients, visitors and staff.

NMCSD reminds its patients and staff of the importance of adhering to the preventive actions recommended by the CDC and Defense Health Agency.

**Social Media Statement:** [Will provide a link to the release on NMCSD Webpage, Navy.mil and DVIDS on Facebook and Twitter sites].

Talking Points/Fact Sheet/Q&A:

**Q. Where do the employees live?**

A. Three live in off base, non-governmental housing. The fourth lives in base housing.

**Q. Do any of the employees have children attending schools out in town?**

A. No.

**Q. Did the employees travel to areas affected by COVID-19?**

A. Yes. Three of the cases are travel related.

**Q. Do you know how the employees contracted Coronavirus?**

A. Military health professionals are conducting a thorough contact investigation to understand the individual's local movements and the scope of exposure this individual may have had with other personnel and surrounding community.

**Q. Can you tell me more about these employees?**

A. Naval Medical Center San Diego conforms to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996 which established healthcare standards or "privacy rules". HIPAA requires that all U. S. military and civilian healthcare providers, hospitals and organizations follow these rules to protect the privacy of healthcare information from unauthorized disclosure or use.

**Q. Were any other staff members, patients, visitors or members of the surrounding community affected by these cases?**

A. Personnel that the individual immediately identified having close contact with have been notified and are in self-isolation at their residence.

Military health professionals are conducting a thorough contact investigation to understand the scope of exposure this individual may have had with other personnel and out in town. We are taking necessary precautions to keep everyone safe and informed, and are coordinating with our local commands, county, state and federal partners. We continue to instruct our employees, both active duty and civilian, to follow



the latest guidance from the Defense Health Agency and CDC regarding the prevention of COVID-19 and other respiratory diseases.

**Q. Will Naval Medical Center San Diego remain open?**

A. Yes. Naval Medical Center San Diego continues its mission of providing safe, high quality patient care, while taken all measures available to protect our staff and preserve our capacity.

**Q. How can people help protect themselves against respiratory illnesses if they can't tell who is sick?**

A. Similar to other respiratory illnesses which are far more common according to the CDC, individuals may come in contact with people who are not exhibiting any symptoms. As a reminder, CDC always recommends everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses, including:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home, or follow your local sick call procedure, when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay current with CDC and Defense Health Agency guidance at, [www.cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) and

**Q. Does the Navy have the ability to test for Coronavirus?**

A. The test for coronavirus, COVID-19, is currently performed at the Naval Health Research Center.

Drafted: Mr. (b) (6) (NMCS), Ms. (b) (6) (NMFP)

Approved:



Notice (004)

March 22, 2020

## 4 NMCS D Employees Confirmed Positive for COVID-19

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Four employees tested positive for COVID-19, Naval Medical Center San Diego (NMCS D) announced today.

These cases have been reported to the State of California and are not additional cases.

All four employees sought medical assessment after exhibiting key respiratory symptoms, were tested and are undergoing self-quarantine in accordance with CDC guidelines.

Personnel with whom these employees have had close contact with were notified and are in self-isolation, in accordance with CDC guidelines.

Military health professionals are conducting a thorough contact investigation to determine whether any other personnel may have been in close contact and possibly exposed. Depending on the results of that investigation, additional measures may be taken.

The areas where the staff members worked were aggressively sanitized using CDC guidelines. NMCS D continues to implement increased cleaning measures throughout the hospital, and continues to cooperate with appropriate public health and regulatory agencies.

NMCS D remains open and continues its mission of providing safe, high quality patient care, while taking all measures available to protect its patients, visitors and staff.

NMCS D reminds its patients and staff of the importance of adhering to the preventive actions recommended by the [CDC](#) and [Defense Health Agency](#).

### ***Other Information Resources***

NMCS D website: <https://www.med.navy.mil/sites/nmcSD/Pages/default.aspx>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NMCS D/>. Facebook Handle- NMCS D

Twitter Handle: NMC\_SD

NMCS D Coronavirus Hotline: (619) 532-5358

-----Your **Health** is Our **Mission**-----

(b) (6)

## PO1 USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)

**From:** (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 24, 2020 7:12 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA); (b) (6) SCPO USN DMA  
PROD (USA)  
**Subject:** FW: VIRIN ID FOR DEPARTING VIDEO

Please fix this immediately.

Sent with BlackBerry Work  
(www.blackberry.com)

---

**From:** (b) (6) CIV USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Date:** Tuesday, Mar 24, 2020, 3:39 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** RE: VIRIN ID FOR DEPARTING VIDEO

Same problem with still imagery (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class (b) (6)  
(b) (6) /Released)

(b) (6)  
Director Navy Media Content Operations  
Navy Office of Information (OI-2)  
Pentagon RM4B463, Washington, DC 20350-1200  
O: (b) (6) C: (b) (6) Secure: (b) (6) DSN: (b) (6)

Email: navymedia@navy.mil  
Facebook: www.facebook.com/USNavy  
FLICKR: www.flickr.com/photos/usnavy  
Twitter: www.twitter.com/usnavy  
YouTube: www.youtube.com/usnavy  
Photo Gallery: http://www.navy.mil/viewGallery.asp

---

**From:** (b) (6) CIV USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 24, 2020 5:56 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)  
**Subject:** VIRIN ID FOR DEPARTING VIDEO

Up early to get your video moving.

Nice video - However, the owner needs to go into the metadata and correct the VIRIN which currently shows as 2019 over 2020. Minor point, but could affect search.

Great work from your team!

SAN DIEGO (March 23, 2020) -- Military Sealift Command hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) navigates the San Diego channel March 23. Mercy deployed in support of the nation's COVID-19 response efforts, and will serve as a referral hospital for non-COVID-19 patients currently admitted to shore-based hospitals. This allows shore base hospitals to focus their efforts on COVID-19 cases. One of the Department of Defense's missions is Defense Support of Civil Authorities. DOD is supporting the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the lead federal

agency, as well as state, local and public health authorities in helping protect the health and safety of the American people. (U.S. Navy video by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class (b) (6) Released)

(b) (6)

Director Navy Media Content Operations

Navy Office of Information (OI-2)

Pentagon RM4B463, Washington, DC 20350-1200

O: (b) (6) C: (b) (6) Secure: (b) (6) DSN: (b) (6)

(b)(6)

## PO1 USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)

---

**From:** (b)(6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 25, 2020 8:48 AM  
**To:** (b)(6) CDR USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)  
**Cc:** (b)(6) CDR USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)  
**Subject:** Gov. (b)(6) PAO POC

Good morning Sir,

I hope you are enjoying Sacramento; I can't even imagine how busy you must be.

Reaching out to see if you would be able to find a PAO POC for the governor's office, and whether he was planning on travelling to L.A. for the MERCY arrival or for any portion of our relief efforts.

Thank you for your help!

Very respectfully,

LT (b)(6)  
P-Deputy Public Affairs Officer  
Commander, U.S. Third Fleet

(b)(6)

(b) (6)

**PO1 USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)**

---

**From:** (b) (6) LT USN NPASE WEST SAN CA (USA)  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 21, 2020 11:05 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) MCPO USN USFFC (USA)  
**Cc:** (b) (6) CIV USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA); (b) (6)  
LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)  
**Subject:** MERCY Second Sentence and Hashtag for Review

Good morning MCCM,

Reaching out to see if you could assist with review/approval up the chain of the following second sentence and the hashtag #ReadyOnArrival that we would like to use on Monday.

“Mercy deployed in support of the nation’s COVID-19 response efforts and serves as a referral hospital for non-COVID-19 patients currently admitted to shore-based hospitals. This allows shore-based hospitals to use their Intensive Care Units and ventilators for COVID-19 patients.”

Standing by for any questions or concerns.

Thank you!

Very respectfully,  
LT (b) (6)  
P-Deputy Public Affairs Officer  
Commander, U.S. Third Fleet

(b) (6)

(b)(6)

## USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)

**From:** (b)(6) USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)  
**Sent:** Friday, March 20, 2020 11:56 AM  
**To:** (b)(6) CIV USN COMSC (USA)  
**Cc:** (b)(6) CDR USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA); (b)(6) LT USN NPASE WEST  
SAN CA (USA)  
**Subject:** post  
**Signed By:** (b)(6)

(b)(6),

Use something like this:

USNS Mercy on loads supplies support of the nation's COVID-19 response efforts. Mercy will treat non-COVID-19 patients which will allow local health professionals to further focus on treating COVID-19 patients. #ReadyOnArrival

Very Respectfully,

(b)(6) APR+M  
Deputy Public Affairs Officer  
Commander, U.S. Third Fleet  
COMM: (b)(6)  
NIPR: (b)(6)  
SIPR: (b)(6)

(b) (6)

**PO1 USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)**

---

**From:** (b) (6) LT USN NPASE WEST SAN CA (USA)  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 21, 2020 3:02 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) (b) (6) CIV USN NAVMED WEST SAN CA (USA)  
**Subject:** RE: 23MAR Media Avail

(b) (6)

Just shot the other principals our media prep package, if you'd like to forward it on to RDML (b) (6) !

V/r,

(b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6) (b) (6) CIV USN NAVMED WEST SAN CA (USA)  
<(b) (6)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 21, 2020 2:01 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) LT USN NPASE WEST SAN CA (USA)  
<(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** RE: 23MAR Media Avail

Thanks!

That's what I thought but wanted to check. :)

(b) (6)

Public Affairs Officer  
Naval Medical Forces Pacific

O: (b) (6)

C: (b) (6)

DSN: (b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6) LT USN NPASE WEST SAN CA (USA)  
[mailto:(b) (6)]



Sent: Saturday, March 21, 2020 2:00 PM

To: (b) (6) (b) (6) CIV USN NAVMED WEST SAN CA (USA)

<(b) (6)>

Subject: RE: 23MAR Media Avail

(b) (6)

Type IIIs since it's a quick-turn deployment!

V/r,

(b) (6)

Very respectfully,

LT (b) (6)

P-Deputy Public Affairs Officer  
Commander, U.S. Third Fleet

(b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) (b) (6) E CIV USN NAVMED WEST SAN CA (USA)

<(b) (6)>

Sent: Saturday, March 21, 2020 1:58 PM

To: (b) (6) LT USN NPASE WEST SAN CA (USA)

<(b) (6)>

Subject: RE: 23MAR Media Avail

Quick question, what's the uniform for Monday?

Thanks!

(b) (6)

Public Affairs Officer  
Naval Medical Forces Pacific

O: (b) (6)

C: (b) (6)  
DSN: (b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) LT USN NPASE WEST SAN CA (USA)  
[mailto:(b) (6)]  
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 5:27 PM  
To: (b) (6) CAPT USN (USA) <(b) (6)>;  
(b) (6); (b) (6) CIV USN NAVMED WEST SAN CA  
(USA)  
<(b) (6)> (b) (6) LT USN NPASE WEST  
SAN CA  
(USA) <(b) (6)>; (b) (6) LT USN NPASE  
WEST SAN  
CA (USA) <(b) (6)>; (b) (6) CIV USN COMSC  
(USA)  
<(b) (6)>; (b) (6) CIV USN (USA)  
<(b) (6)>; (b) (6) CWO-3 USN  
COMNAVSURFORPAC (USA)  
<(b) (6)>  
Cc: (b) (6) CDR USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>;  
(b) (6),  
(b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>  
Subject: 23MAR Media Avail

Good afternoon,

A Pentagon Press Corps VTC and in-person media availability have been scheduled for Monday, March 23 in support of USNS MERCY's deployment.

The desired leadership to appear at the VTC and press conference include:

Rear Admiral (b) (6) Forces Pacific

**\*\*SPEAKING ROLE\*\***

Captain (b) (6) Medical Treatment Facility USNS  
Mercy (T-AH 19) **\*\*SPEAKING ROLE\*\***

Captain (b) (6) Destroyer Squadron 21

Captain (b) (6) USNS Mercy (T-AH 19)

The intention is for RDML (b) (6) and CAPT (b) (6) to give brief remarks, but all four leaders are present to field any questions.

In order to support these media events, we will be conducting a media preparation meeting at 0930 on Monday, March 23 on board Naval Base San Diego, either at the ESG-3 building or Base CO building (confirmed location to follow this weekend). The VTC will take place in the same location as the media prep session.

The timeline for Monday is as follows:

0930-1030 SME prep

1130-1230 Pentagon Press Corps VTC

1300-1330 Media Availability pier-side with MERCY in background

1400 MERCY Departure

1430 Media escorted off base

Media preparation documents are currently with NAVNORTH for approval, and I will send them to this same email chain once approved.

Respectfully request acknowledge receipt of this email, and notify us if there are any conflicts with this plan.

Thank you for your flexibility during this quick-turn mission, and we are standing by for any and all questions!

Very respectfully,

LT (b) (6)

P-Deputy Public Affairs Officer

Commander, U.S. Third Fleet

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b)(6)

## USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)

**From:** (b)(6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 22, 2020 5:00 PM  
**To:** (b)(6) CDR USN (USA); (b)(6) CDR USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA);  
(b)(6) CIV USN (USA)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** RE: ABC  
**Signed By:** (b)(6)

Thanks, sir.

+ (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6) CCed, is helping us coordinate media coverage of the departure. Please let us know how we can assist.

Very Respectfully,

(b)(6) APR+M  
Deputy Public Affairs Officer  
Commander, U.S. Third Fleet  
COMM: (b)(6)  
NIPR: (b)(6)  
SIPR: (b)(6)

---

**From:** (b)(6) CDR USN (USA) (b)(6) >  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 22, 2020 4:58 PM  
**To:** (b)(6) CDR USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b)(6)>; (b)(6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)  
<(b)(6)>  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** ABC

(b)(6)

Linking you up with (b)(6) from ABC re: Mercy departure coverage. Thanks.

Best,

(b)(6)

CDR (b)(6)  
Assistant Chief of Information  
Media Operations  
U.S. Navy CHINFO  
(b)(6)

(b) (6) **PO1 USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)**

---

**From:** (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 26, 2020 7:44 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA); (b) (6) LCDR; (b) (6)  
LT; (b) (6) LT; (b) (6)  
**Cc:** (b) (6) CDR USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA); (b) (6) SCPO USN DMA PROD  
(USA)  
**Subject:** RE: C3F USNS Mercy Expectations

Team,

VADM (b) (6) has specifically asked for the tour video to be released TODAY. We have assured him it will be out today. He has also asked the CAPT (b) (6) to do a short intro to the video, along with someone else as a voiceover or tour guide for each space you visit- this person giving the tour needs to discuss capabilities.

Again, this is now an ask from the Admiral.

This is also in addition to the requirements for daily stills and the timeline listed below.

Vr

(b) (6)

Sent with BlackBerry Work  
(www.blackberry.com)

---

**From:** (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Date:** Wednesday, Mar 25, 2020, 3:48 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) LCDR <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) LT <(b) (6)>, (b) (6)  
(b) (6) LT <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>  
**Cc:** (b) (6) CDR USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)  
<(b) (6)>, (b) (6) SCPO USN DMA PROD (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** C3F USNS Mercy Expectations

Good afternoon Team Mercy,

Reaching out to clarify expectations.

Daily Deadlines:

0800: A proposed plan for the "Interview Hour" (currently tracking 1500), as well as the Production in-progress/to be completed that day, to include what products we will see come through during the "Media City" hour (the hour coordinated with the ship for you to send off products). This plan should fulfill CAPT (b) (6) 1300 PST requirement.  
1200: No less than 10 images on DVIDS (noon-to-noon), and one B-roll package (if B-roll will not upload, Senior (b) (6) MUST be notified via phone call immediately).  
1500: Daily SITREP (edited version attached)

Additional items:

- Today's SITREP referenced 8 photos. Senior (b) (6) has received 5 on our DVIDS end (as of 1525 local), 5 released. 3 photos were sent via email with an explicit "Not for release, but for brief" caveat. They should not

be counted as they were not released, nor were they eligible for release (Lead PAO disapproved, no caption, etc.)

- Product expectation includes written feature pieces (3-4 per week) as well as video productions (at least 1 feature-style production per week, not to be confused with B-roll).
- SITREP also referenced a social media post. Last USNS Mercy Facebook post was on July 2, 2018. What other social media outlets/pages should we be referencing? Please include links in all future SITREPs.
- Due to our constant communication with the East Coast, we should be working on a “noon to noon” timeline. Not to be up all night, but to be able to reference product earlier in the morning.
- Please confirm “Media City” hour that has been coordinated with the ship to ensure connection availability. Suggest trying for the morning to ensure the “noon to noon” timeline is feasible with timely products.
- Attached is the CHINFO request excel sheet. Those in green on the first tab need to be reached out to and offered a timeslot in the “Interview Hour” before any local press. (ex. Fox and Friends, News Week, etc.)
- We are cleared to confirm an expected Friday arrival for Mercy (per USFF).

Standing by for any questions or needed clarification.

Very respectfully,

LT (b) (6)  
P-Deputy Public Affairs Officer  
Commander, U.S. Third Fleet

(b) (6)

Name	Outlet	Email	Phone	Stated Request	CHINFO Priority
(b) (6)	Fox News	(b) (6)	(b) (6)	Embark COM or MER	( )
(b) (6)	CBS	(b) (6)		Embark COM or MER	( )
(b) (6)	NBC	(b) (6)		COM or MER embark	( )
(b) (6)	ABC	(b) (6)	(b) (6)	COM or MER embark	( )
(b) (6)	New York Times	(b) (6)	(b) (6)	Embark COM or MER	( )
(b) (6)	CNN/ Wolf Blitzer	(b) (6)	(b) (6)	COM/MER Interview with CO	( )
(b) (6)	Reuters	(b) (6)		COM embark	( )
(b) (6)	WSJ	(b) (6)	(b) (6)	COM departure	( )
(b) (6)	News Week	(b) (6)	(b) (6)	Interview about COM or MER	( )
(b) (6)	AP	(b) (6)	(b) (6)	photograph departure of COM	( )
(b) (6)	AP	(b) (6)	(b) (6)	COM Access	( )
(b) (6)	Fox News/ Bill Hemmer	(b) (6)		An interview request for a representative from the Navy to appear live with "Bill Hemmer Reports" in the 3pm est hour?	( )
(b) (6)	Guardian	(b) (6)		Skype about how COM or MER is preparing	( )
(b) (6)	Daily Mail	(b) (6)		COM or MER embark	( )
(b) (6)	NBC	(b) (6)		COM or MER embark	( )
(b) (6)	USA Today	(b) (6)	(b) (6)	photos of departure COM or MER	( )
(b) (6)	WNYC	(b) (6)	(b) (6)	COM embark	( )
(b) (6)	New York Times	(b) (6)	(b) (6)	COM or MER, pref COM embark	( )
(b) (6)	Fox News	(b) (6)	(b) (6)	Go aboard COM when in port in NY	( )
(b) (6)	Vice News	(b) (6)	(b) (6)	document the launch of the USNS Comfort	( )
(b) (6)	USAToday	(b) (6)	(b) (6)	cover/photograph COMFORT's departure	( )
(b) (6)	Newsy	(b) (6)	(b) (6)	Embark COM	( )
(b) (6)	NBC	(b) (6)	(b) (6)	Embark COM or MER	( )
(b) (6)	Breitbart	(b) (6)		Embark COM or MER	( )
(b) (6)	Newsy	(b) (6)		Embark COM or MER	( )
(b) (6)	NYT/freelance	(b) (6)		Embark COM	( )
(b) (6)	Sky News	(b) (6)	(b) (6)	Film on COM or MER	( )
(b) (6)	VOA	(b) (6)	(b) (6)	Interview SN/A or CNO about DSCA	( )
(b) (6)	Popular Science	(b) (6)	(b) (6)	Interview Someone about COM/MER capabilities	( )
(b) (6)		(b) (6)	(b) (6)	Skype interview	( )
(b) (6)	Black News Channel	(b) (6)	(b) (6)	MER Embark and B-Roll	( )
(b) (6)	Inside Edition	(b) (6)	(b) (6)	MER Embark and B-roll	( )
(b) (6)	Hearst Television	(b) (6)	(b) (6)	MER Embark	( )
(b) (6)	Time	(b) (6)	(b) (6)	COM Embark	( )
(b) (6)	TV 2 Denmark	(b) (6)	(b) (6)	COM Embark	( )
(b) (6)	USA LIVE	(b) (6)	(b) (6)	Access on or around MER	( )
(b) (6)	CBS LA	(b) (6)	(b) (6)	interview or tour MER	( )
(b) (6)	Bader Broadcast News Services	(b) (6)	(b) (6)	COM, wants a spot on press riser	( )
(b) (6)	BuzzFeed	(b) (6)		COM or MER photo coverage	( )
(b) (6)	Freelancer w/ New York Times	(b) (6)	(b) (6)	Have ~4 Sailors video journal on COM	( )
(b) (6)	Reuters	(b) (6)		COM Embark	( )
(b) (6)	WSJ	(b) (6)	(b) (6)	COM videographer Embark	( )



[illegible]

(b) (6)

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(b) (6)

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ling row 1, then paste as plaintext into BCC line

## USNS MERCY (T-AH 19) COVID-19 Response Deployment Daily PA SITREP

To be sent to C3F (b) (6); (b) (6); (b) (6);  
(b) (6) NAVNORTH (b) (6)  
(b) (6)  
and Joint Chiefs of Staff (b) (6).

### Last 24

#### PA Personnel Changes

#### Media Activities

- Outlet: AAR (Leadership engaged, Q&A, Estimated story release date)

#### Press Queries

Date						
Outlet	Reporter Name	Contact Info	Query	Date/Time query and proposed response sent to C3F	Date/Time query responded to	Follow-Up query?

#### Media Coverage

##### *Internal*

##### *External*

#### Distinguished Visitors

Date					
DV Name	DV Contact Information (PA Office, Aide, etc.)	Media Avail? If so, location, time, outlets	Visit AAR	Social Media/Online Links of Coverage	ROI (Follow-up Queries, etc.)

#### Production Summary

Date				
Print Stories	Photos Sent to DVIDS	Videos Sent to DVIDS (Minutes captured/released)	Infographics	Social Media

Sent to DVIDS				
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\*\*Summary shall include links to DVIDS

## Next 24

### PA Personnel Changes

### Media Activities

- Outlet: AAR (Leadership engaged, Q&A, Estimated story release date)

### Media Coverage

*Internal*

*External*

### Distinguished Visitors

Date					
DV Name	DV Contact Information (PA Office, Aide, etc.)	Media Avail? If so, location, time, outlets	Visit AAR	Social Media/Online Links of Coverage	ROI (Follow-up Queries, etc.)

(b) (6)

## PO1 USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)

**From:** (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 24, 2020 10:46 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) LT; (b) (6) CDR USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA); (b) (6) LT  
USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)  
**Cc:** (b) (6) LCDR  
**Subject:** RE: CNN Interview  
**Attachments:** MERCY\_COMFORT\_COVID\_PPAG\_FINAL.docx; USNS Mercy COVID-19 Response Effort Deployment Contact List.xlsx; U.S. Third Fleet Content Guidance.docx; 200331- Mercy Arrives in Los Angeles.docx; Media Advisory-200331 USNS Mercy Arrives Los Angeles.docx

(b) (6)

Of course!

PPAG, (updated) Third Fleet Content Guidance, (updated) contact list, DRAFT press release and media advisory for L.A. arrival, attached.

Very respectfully,  
LT (b) (6)  
P-Deputy Public Affairs Officer  
Commander, U.S. Third Fleet

(b) (6)

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**From:** (b) (6) LT <(b) (6)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 24, 2020 10:42 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)> CDR USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)> LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Cc:** (b) (6) LCDR <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** RE: CNN Interview

(b) (6)

Appreciate the google drive link. Been trying to load the page for past 30 minutes. If not too much trouble if you could send an email with some of the attachments.

V/r.  
LT (b) (6)  
Public Affairs Officer  
Navy Public Affairs Support Element (NPASE) West  
ISO USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) COVID-19 Response  
Office Location: NGO Lounge  
Cell: (b) (6)  
Jdial: (b) (6)

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**From:** (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 24, 2020 10:05 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) <(b) (6)>; (b) (6) CDR USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)  
<(b) (6)>; (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Cc:** (b) (6) LCDR <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** RE: CNN Interview

LT (b) (6)

Below is the Google Drive link to the most updated information.

[https://drive.google.com/open?id=155GNgvh80h7jMftrb8PmVouF\\_puTIFBX](https://drive.google.com/open?id=155GNgvh80h7jMftrb8PmVouF_puTIFBX)

If this is NOT helpful (due to your connectivity), let me know and I will send you the updated documents in an attachment.

Very respectfully,

LT (b) (6)  
P-Deputy Public Affairs Officer  
Commander, U.S. Third Fleet

(b) (6)

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**From:** (b) (6) LT <(b) (6)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 24, 2020 10:03 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) CDR USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>; (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)  
<(b) (6)>; (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Cc:** (b) (6) LCDR <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** CNN Interview

C3F PA,

We are coordinating a 1500 local interview with CNN/Wolf Blitzer. CO's schedule is good and we will be doing a 1430 prep session prior to the call. Currently working call in numbers with CNN office. Any updated PAG or media prep package you can send will be helpful. We will be optesting the Iridium phone and regular phone line in about an hour with CNN office to ensure best connection possible for the interview. Any questions let me know.

V/r.  
LT (b) (6)  
Public Affairs Officer  
Navy Public Affairs Support Element (NPASE) West  
ISO USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) COVID-19 Response  
Office Location: NGO Lounge  
Cell: (b) (6)  
Jdial: (b) (6)

UNCLASSIFIED//FOUO

(b) (5)

## 2. Background and Coordination.

(b) (5)

### 2.2. Coordination.

2.2.1. This PAG provides guidance for public affairs officers (PAOs) during the execution of public affairs (PA) actions and activities in support of the COMFORT and MERCY deployments.

2.2.2. Other organizations coordinated with are: Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Public Affairs, Office of the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs (OASD (PA)), U.S. Northern Command (USNORTHCOM), Chief of Information (CHINFO), Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED), U.S. Pacific Fleet (CPF), Military Sealift Command (MSC), and Commander Naval Installations Command (CNIC).



2.3. Approved as PAG on March 23, 2020.

3. (b) (5)



#### 4. Holding Statement.

4.1. (Begin) U.S. Northern Command is always ready to support Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA) missions, and the Navy's USNS Comfort (T-AH 20) and USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) are preparing to provide support for non-COVID-19 patients as directed by the Secretary of Defense. Both ships are completing scheduled maintenance cycles and identifying necessary medical staffing to deploy as soon as possible. Both ships will have a team of medical professionals and the necessary medical equipment and supplies, to serve as referral hospitals for civilian and military patients seeking medical care for issues not related to COVID-19. There are no plans to treat coronavirus patients on board Comfort and Mercy. (End)

(b) (5)



5.4. Announcement of MERCY'S departure from San Diego, CA, will be made March 23 by C3F.

5.5. Announcement of COMFORT'S departure from Norfolk, VA, will be made March 30 by C2F.

#### 5.6. Media/DV Embarks

5.6.1. There have been numerous requests from national media to embark MERCY/COMFORT. Stories shared by embedded media will have widespread reach, give Americans unprecedented access to the Navy's medical capability, and reinforce the Navy's role in providing humanitarian assistance in times of crisis. Media and DV Embark requests are being evaluated with consideration to health and safety and the risk of COVID-19 exposure to the crew. Media and DVs embarking or visiting either ship will follow the same screening and testing procedures as the crew, embarked medical personnel and prospective patients.

5.6.2. The Navy will facilitate video and/or telephone interviews and provide visual imagery from embarked Navy Public Affairs Support Element (NPASE) personnel. In addition, the Navy will permit media coverage from the pier during ship departures and arrivals.

#### 6. Public Affairs Facilitation Ashore.

6.6.1. MCE-E and MCE-W will establish a Joint Information Bureaus (JIB) in New York and Los Angeles, respectively, to support the coordination of media/DV visits while the Comfort and Mercy are berthed in those cities.

6.7. Both JIBs will submit a list of potential DVs to NAVNORTH NLT [DATE].

7. Themes and Messages. The below themes and messages align with Health and Human Services (HHS), state and local agencies, and the USNORTHCOM and Navy Communication Strategy. These themes and messages are for use by all participants who talk to the media. When possible, link themes and messages to the appropriate command narrative themes.

7.1.1. We are committed to providing Defense Support to Civil Authorities by increasing medical capacity and collaboration for medical assistance and disaster relief in the two areas of our country that have seen tremendous impact from the corona virus pandemic.

7.1.2. The Department of Defense is committed to taking every measure possible to support efforts to protect the health of the American people.

7.1.3. We will coordinate closely with state, local, and public health authorities to ensure the well-being of our personnel and the local population.

7.1.4. USNS Mercy and USNS Comfort medical professionals will work to reduce possible infection to ensure the safety of our patients and providers alike.

7.1.5. The Navy maintains stringent cleanliness standards onboard US Navy ships to support crew health and well-being. Navy leadership is closely monitoring the outbreak. The Navy will follow CDC guidance for healthcare providers to mitigate the potential of any outbreak aboard USNS Comfort/Mercy while providing increased medical capacities.

7.1.6. USNS Comfort and USNS Mercy are not equipped to provide care for mass infections and as such they will not treat COVID-19 patients. Their primary mission is to assist with treatment of other patients in coastal locations, to enable local health professionals to better focus on a large number of COVID cases.

7.1.7. Crewmembers, medical staff, and potential patients will be screened for COVID-19 and tested as necessary to minimize the risk of any outbreak aboard USNS Comfort or USNS Mercy .

7.1.8. USNS Comfort and USNS Mercy missions are an example of Americans helping Americans – we are your Navy, and in time of crisis, we stand ready to answer the call to support Civil Authorities (FEMA, Government of NY, WA) and the American people.

7.1.9. Our hospital ships are uniquely outfitted for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief- one of the Navy's core missions these ships perform around the world. The men and women of the U.S. Navy and USNS Comfort and USNS Mercy teams are highly skilled, trained and ready to support COVID-19 response efforts.

## 8. Questions and Answers.

### **Q1: Are USNS Mercy and USNS Comfort being deployed to prepare for potential COVID-19 response?**

A1: Military Sealift Command's hospital ships, USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) and USNS Comfort (T-AH 20), are preparing for a deployment in support of the nation's COVID-19 response efforts. The Comfort and Mercy WILL NOT deploy to treat COVID-19 patients, as these ships are not configured to provide treatment for infectious diseases. We are, in essence, a "relief valve" for the local civilian hospitals in coastal locations so that local health professionals can better focus on COVID-19 cases. By providing care to patients in need of treatment NOT related to COVID-19, we increase the local civilian hospitals' capacity to focus on the treatment of their COVID-19 patients.

### **Q2: What role will the hospital ships have in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic?**

A2: The hospital ships are expected to serve as a relief valve for traditional patients to open up capacity at the civilian hospital for the treatment of COVID-19 patients. The ships will work closely with local health officials to decide which cases are sent to USNS Comfort and USNS Mercy. These decisions will be based on the capabilities of USNS Comfort and USNS Mercy medical teams and the local officials' determination of patient priority. Each ship can maintain up to 5,000 units of blood and has a 1,000-bed capacity. Each ship is equipped with four X-ray machines, one CAT scan unit, a dental suite, an optometry and lens laboratory, physical therapy center, pharmacy, angiography suite, and two oxygen-producing plants. The presence of these ships will allow local health professionals to better focus on treating COVID-19 patients.

### **Q3: Where are the hospital ships deploying?**

A3: USNS Mercy will sail from Naval Base San Diego, California, to Los Angeles, California while USNS Comfort will sail from Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia, to New York City. Both ships will be in support of Defense Support to Civil Authorities and as the President stated, these ships will provide a surge medical capacity so state and local authorities can better focus on COVID-19 cases.

### **Q4: How were the locations selected of where the ships will deploy/support?**

A4: As FEMA director Gaynor stated, FEMA selected the locations based on analysis for the potential need for hospital beds on each coast and where the ships would have the greatest impact.

### **Q5: When will the ships deploy?**

A5. USNS Mercy is scheduled to deploy on March 23. USNS Comfort is scheduled to deploy on April 2.

**Q6. How long will the ships deploy?**

A6: The length of the deployment will be determined in coordination with local authorities and their assessment of the continued need for support.

**Q7: How many beds are the hospital ships deploying with? What is size the medical crew?**

A7: USNS Mercy and USNS Comfort each have a 1,000 hospital bed capacity. Final staffing continues to evolve, as availability of assigned staff is determined and the reserve sourcing opportunities materialize; specifically, reserve utilization is predicated upon an effort to not impair local community COVID-19 response by reserve deployment. Current configuration for the USNS Mercy is 95% active and 5% reserve sourced. These ratios may evolve as additional reservists are identified. The USNS Comfort is still being resourced, but with additional planning time capability, is expected to utilize a higher ratio of reserve support.

**Q8: Has it been determined where the medical staffs will come from to support the USNS Comfort and USNS Mercy?**

A8: The physicians, nurses and other medical support personnel are being drawn from Navy Medicine professionals at Military Treatment Facilities across the country. Available reservists will also fill some of the medical positions aboard. The Defense Health Agency, as the administrator of these Military Treatment Facilities, will work to reduce the impact of the movement of these active duty medical professionals to the ship. Local medical commanders from their home units are working to minimize the impact to patient care. We appreciate the shared sacrifice and inconvenience of everyone affected as we work with national authorities to position medical resources where they are most needed.

**Q9: Will crewmembers and medical staff be screened for COVID-19 prior to arriving in each port?**

A9: Crewmembers and medical staff will be screened for COVID-19 and tested as necessary in order to minimize the risk of any outbreak aboard USNS Comfort or USNS Mercy.

**Q10: How will crewmembers and medical staff protect themselves from contracting COVID-19 once onboard?**

A10: The hospital ships operate as hospitals and have infection control procedures that will be followed, just as any hospital ashore. The ship is equipped with appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as required. Additionally, all personnel aboard USNS Mercy and USNS Comfort will practice preventative hygiene measures recommended by the CDC to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

**Q11: Who are the mission commanders?**

A11: Commander, Destroyer Squadron 21 will be the mission commander for USNS Mercy. Commander, Amphibious Squadron 6, will be the mission commander for USNS Comfort.

**Q12: Will there be an opportunity for media to cover the departure of the hospital ships?**

A12: Yes, the Navy will permit media coverage from the pier during ship departures and arrivals. These media availabilities will be conducted in accordance with the latest force protection, preventative health and CDC guidelines.

**Q13: Will there be an opportunity for media to embark USNS Mercy or USNS Comfort?**

A13: Media and DV Embark requests are being evaluated with consideration to health and safety and the risk of COVID-19 exposure to the crew, embarked medical personnel, and members of the media. Once a decision is made, NAVNORTH (USFF) PA will coordinate closely with MSC, BUMED, numbered Fleet PAOs, and Regional Commanders to facilitate media coverage.

**Q14: What is the projected cost of this deployment?**

A14: The projected budget is not yet determined.

**Q15: What is an MH-60S and what is its mission?**

A15: The MH-60S Sea Hawk is a twin-engine helicopter. Its primary mission is Search and Rescue, Naval Special Warfare support and Anti-Surface Warfare. Additional missions include logistics support, vertical replenishment, medical evacuation, non-combatant evacuation operations, and maritime interdiction operations.

**Q16: How is Helicopter Sea Combat (HSC) Squadron 5 and HSC-4 providing support?**

A16: In direct support to the COVID-19 mission, HSC-5 will provide logistics support, medium airlift, and medical evacuation support to USNS Comfort. HSC-4 will provide those same capabilities to USNS Mercy.

**Q17: How many aircraft are the two squadrons providing?**

A17: HSC-5 and HSC-4 will support with two aircraft and three flight crews each, with approximately 40 total personnel including maintainers and support personnel.

**Q18: If a patient begins to show symptoms after they have been admitted, will USNS Mercy and USNS Comfort staff test patients for COVID-19 or transfer them to a local hospital?**

A18: The hospital ships operate as hospitals and have infection control procedures that will be followed, just as any civilian hospital ashore. The follow-on actions will be coordinated with local health officials based on the patient's needs.

**Q19: How will patients be selected to receive medical care aboard the Navy hospital ships? And how will they prioritized?**

A19: Local health officials will identify candidates for transfer to USNS Comfort and Mercy after the patients have been screened for COVID-19. Doctors aboard USNS Comfort and Mercy will then work directly with the patients' civilian doctor to ensure a safe and thorough turn over process before the patients are transferred. The hospital ships will serve as a relief valve for the civilian hospitals by reducing their non-COVID-19 workload. The ship's medical staff will work with local health authorities to use the hospital ships referral centers, essentially functioning as a tertiary care center for the location. Local health officials will decide on required care and prioritize based on capabilities and where they need the most support.

**Q20: Will the Navy bill patients and insurance providers for the medical care they receive aboard the ships?**

A20: The President, our Commander-in-Chief, declared COVID-19 a National Emergency. The deployment of America's Hospital Ships is an investment in health and wellness of our people. This mission also contributes to the readiness and training of our force. For individuals treated aboard hospital ships there is no anticipated cost. It is similar to the care we provide around the world when we conduct humanitarian and disaster relief missions. It's important to understand the value of care we are providing cannot be measured in dollars alone. This is an investment made to ensure we are prepared when a future disaster strikes.

**Q21: Will any of the Sailors or civilian crewmembers from the ships be allowed liberty in the local communities?**

A21: In order to mitigate the risk of the virus being brought aboard, liberty will not be authorized for military or civilians aboard USNS Mercy or Comfort.

**Q22: How long can the ship operate without resupply?**

A22: Both ships will operate pierside and resupply using in-port procedures with mitigations in place to ensure the safe on load of supplies.

**Q23: How long will USNS Mercy and USNS Comfort remain?**

A23: Although their departure dates are not yet final, the ships will stay as long as local officials consider their presence to be of value. The USNS Mercy and USNS Comfort's mission is not to treat COVID-19 patients onboard, but to help the local health care system by treating other patients who do not suffer from COVID-19.

**Q24: What initial capacity will USNS Mercy and USNS Comfort have?**

A24: Each ship will arrive with a 1000 hospital bed capacity.

**Q25: How long will it take for USNS Mercy to reach Los Angeles?**

A25: It will take Mercy approximately 1-2 days. The ship will depart San Diego at approximately noon Monday, March 23 and will pull into Los Angeles within the week.

**Q26: Will USNS Mercy have everything and everyone it needs when they leave San Diego?**

A26: Essentially, yes. Personnel will likely join immediately upon ship arrival in Los Angeles. The ship is stocked with adequate supplies to begin the mission.

**Q27: Is it possible to accelerate the transit?**

A27: The transit is a time-distance calculation that cannot be changed based on the ship's speed capability.

**Q28: Are the doctors on board USNS Mercy or USNS Comfort permanently assigned to the ship?**

A28: No. Our hospital ships do not maintain a full crew or medical staff. Care providers will be coming from various Navy medical facilities across the country and carefully selected reservists.

**Q29: Are patients able to be tested for COVID-19 on USNS Mercy or USNS Comfort ?**

A29: USNS Mercy and USNS Comfort will embark non-COVID-19 patients who were already being cared for in local area hospitals in an effort to free up facilities for COVID-19-related cases ashore. Proper screening and

mitigations measures are in place to limit the risk posed by COVID-19, including the means to test for the virus.

**Q30: When will USNS Mercy or USNS Comfort begin embarking patients?**

**A30:** Both USNS Mercy and USNS Comfort will begin accepting patients as soon as possible, but will not be able to accept patients immediately upon arrival. The ships will need some time after operating underway to ensure the ship is configured in such a way to care for patients. Transfers will occur with consideration to the safety and security of patients and care providers. Medical planners are working with state, federal, and local partners to establish the means by which we coordinate care.

**Q31: How long will it take for USNS Comfort to reach New York City?**

**A31:** Comfort will depart Norfolk on Apr 2 and arrive Apr 3.

**Q32: Will USNS Comfort depart Norfolk with all of the personnel and supplies it needs?**

**A32:** Yes, USNS Comfort will depart with the personnel and equipment to treat up to 1000 patients.

**Q33: Will COMFORT and MERCY take walk-in patients?**

**A33:** No. The hospital ships will work with local health officials and accept non-COVID patient transfers from local hospitals. We are, in essence, a “relief valve” for the local civilian hospitals in coastal locations so that local health professionals can better focus on COVID-19 cases. By providing care to patients in need of treatment NOT related to COVID-19, we increase the local civilian hospitals’ capacity to focus on the treatment of their COVID-19 patients.

**Q34: Why did USNS Comfort get underway on Mar 27?**

**A34:** Comfort recently underwent maintenance and needed to conduct testing sea-trials before being considered fully mission capable. Comfort will deploy to New York City Apr 2, and will arrive Apr 3.

**Q35: How many Navy Reservists will be supporting the USNS Mercy and USNS Comfort?**

**A35:** The Navy Reserve prides itself on being a ready, agile force that provides responsive, vital support to the Navy and the Nation. Dozens of medical professionals from across the Navy Reserve Force will help augment the USNS Comfort (T-AH 20) and USNS Mercy (T-AH 19), to help serve our fellow citizens in need. The specialized skillsets that our Navy Reservists possess make them an indispensable force multiplier in support of this critical mission.

**Q36: Will bringing in Navy Reservists who are medical professionals negatively impact their own communities?**

**A36:** We have worked to ensure our volunteer Reservists are available to support the medical relief efforts while minimizing impact to their local communities. When the Navy Reserve was asked to help find medical professionals to help support this mission, Commander, Navy Reserve Force received over 200 volunteer requests from our Reserve medical community to help support the active-duty medical community and the USNS Comfort (T-AH20) and USNS Mercy (T-AH 19). The specialized skillsets that our Navy Reservists possess make us an indispensable force multiplier in support of this critical mission.

**8. PA/Communication Planning Instructions and Command Relationships.**

**8.1.** Approval authority for release of information will be set by USNORTHCOM in coordination with the Lead Federal Agency and supported State Governors.

**8.1.1.** MCE-East and West will take the lead for any questions on outside of this guidance, but service members encountering questions from the public and media may respond in accordance with this guidance or refer to HHQ PAOs.

**8.1.2.** In general, the MCE-East and West in coordination with NAVNORTH will have the lead in coordinating press conferences and media events during the deployment.

**8.2.** (U//FOUO) A higher level of approval will be required for crisis situations.

**8.2.1.** (U//FOUO) Response-to-query (RTQ), specific to the situation, will be developed and forwarded by immediate precedence message or most expedient available means to C2F/C3F, respectively, and NAVNORTH within one hour following a serious accident or incident. RTQ should include a statement and questions and answers, even if the information is preliminary. Supplemental information can be added to the RTQ as it becomes available.



8.3. Release authority for all visual imagery and print products resides with MCE-East and MCE-West. Serious incidents/accidents will be coordinated with NAVNORTH. Serious incidents/accidents include death, serious injury, positive COVID-19 test of crewmember or patient, major property damage or any adverse events.

Public Affairs Situation Reports (SITREPs). MCE-East and MCE-West will provide daily PA SITREPS in a Last/Next 24 hour format to NAVNORTH. The report will include, at a minimum: any changes in PA personnel; media activities/outlets engaged/planned; press queries; media coverage (internal & external); community relations activities; distinguished visitors; production summary (number of stills taken/released/printed); minutes of video captured and transferred; stories/releases printed/submitted; social media hits (Facebook, Twitter, etc.); summary.

## 9. Media Operations

### 9.1. External Media Coverage.

9.1.1. Media coverage of the 2020 COMFORT and MERCY deployments is authorized and encouraged in accordance with guidelines in this PAG.

9.1.2. PA personnel are authorized to conduct media engagements once cleared by NAVNORTH in coordination with USNORTHCOM, Health and Human Services, and if necessary, local authorities. Media interviews will be on the record/for attribution and voluntary on the part of participants. Remarks will be limited to subject matter within an individual's area of expertise, personal experience, and the scope of the current mission, and will avoid references to other non-medical related missions. Interviewees will not discuss hypothetical, political, or foreign policy matters. Interviewees should refer questions beyond the individual's scope of authority to MCE-East and MCE-West PAOs for further coordination.

9.1.3. Each ship has an SOP governing patient privacy and media embarks/coverage. PAO should contact the Comfort and Mercy DFAs for ship's guidance.

9.1.4. Patients must sign an authorization for disclosure of medical information (DD2870) before internal or external media can film or photograph. Further information at:

<https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/faq/2023/film-and-media/index.html>

## 10. Points of Contact.

### 10.1. Public Affairs Points of Contact.

10.1.2. USFF Public Affairs Officer: (b) (6)

10.1.3. USFF Deputy Public Affairs Officer: (b) (6)

(b) (6)

10.1.4. PACFLT PAO: (b) (6)

10.1.5. PACFLT Deputy PAO: (b) (6)

10.1.6. PACFLT Public Affairs Office Action Officer: (b) (6)

(b) (6)

10.1.7. CNSP Public Affairs Officer: (b) (6)

10.1.8. CNSP Deputy Public Affairs Officer: (b) (6)

10.1.9. CHINFO Assistant Chief of Information for Media: (b) (6)

(b) (6)

10.1.10. CHINFO Deputy Assistant Chief of Information for Media: (b) (6)

(b) (6)

10.1.11. USNS MERCY/DESRON 21 Public Affairs Officer. (b) (6) email, phone number (ship email address forthcoming)

10.1.12. USNS COMFORT/CPR 6 PAO. (b) (6), (ship email and phone number forthcoming)

10.1.13. NPASE. (b) (6)

10.1.14. NPASE East OIC. (b) (6)

10.1.15. NPASE West OIC. (b) (6)

(b) (6)

10.1.16. BUMED Public Affairs Officer:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

10.1.17. MCE-East Public Affairs Officer:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

10.1.18. MCE-East Deputy Public Affairs Officer:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

10.1.97. MCE-West Public Affairs Officer:

(b) (6)

10.1.97. MCE-West Deputy Public Affairs Officer:

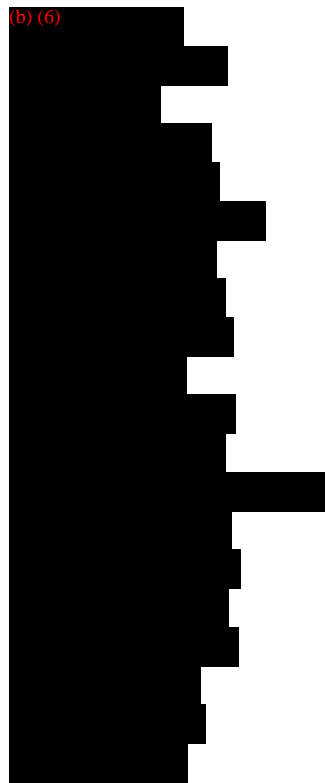
(b) (6)

(b) (6)

# USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) COVID-19 Response Effort Deployment Contact List

Name

(b) (6)





Command Position	Email	Phone (Work)	Phone (Cell)
C3F PAO	(b) (6)		
C3F Deputy PAO	(b) (6)		
C3F P-Deputy PAO	(b) (6)		
C3F Public Affairs LPO	(b) (6)		
C3F Public Affairs DLCPO	(b) (6)		
Deputy Director, USFF PAO	(b) (6)		
USFF PAO	(b) (6)		
Assistant CHINFO	(b) (6)		
Navy Social Media	(b) (6)		
CPF PAO	(b) (6)		
Navy Medical West PAO	(b) (6)		
MSC West PAO	(b) (6)		
USMC On-Site COMMSTRAT	(b) (6)		
USNS Mercy PAO	(b) (6)		
USNS Mercy Deputy PAO	(b) (6)		
USNS Mercy Production PAO	(b) (6)		
NRSW PAO	(b) (6)		
EOD Group 1 PAO	(b) (6)		
NAVWEST PAO	(b) (6)		
ESG-3	(b) (6)		

**U.S. Third Fleet Content Guidance**  
**USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) COVID-19 Response Effort Deployment**

**U.S. Third Fleet (C3F) is the release authority for ALL USNS Mercy COVID-19 Response products.**

C3F shall receive all products for review before release.

2<sup>nd</sup> Sentence Caption Information

“The hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) deployed in support of the nation’s COVID-19 response efforts, and will serve as a referral hospital for non-COVID-19 patients currently admitted to shore-based hospitals. This allows shore base hospitals to focus their efforts on COVID-19 cases. One of the Department of Defense’s missions is Defense Support of Civil Authorities. DoD is supporting the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the lead federal agency, as well as state, local and public health authorities in helping protect the health and safety of the American people.” (U.S. Navy [video/photo] by XXX/Released)

Metadata

Tags: NavyHospitalShipsCOVID19, U.S. Navy, USN, U.S. Fleet Forces Command, USFF, MCE-W, Commander, U.S. 3rd Fleet, C3F, USNS Mercy, T-AH-19, Navy Hospital Ships, COVID-19, Coronavirus

**NavyHospitalShipsCOVID19 MUST be used.** It links directly to the DVIDS feature page:  
<https://www.dvidshub.net/feature/NavyHospitalShipsCOVID19>

Do NOT use hashtags as metadata tags.

Submission Information

All products will be submitted up to the U.S. Third Fleet DVIDS page. All MCs should have already been added as submitters to the C3F DVIDS Page. If you are not, please email MCCS (b) (6)

Social Media

Social Media posts are to be treated as products. All imagery and/or videos for social media must be approved by C3F Public Affairs.

All posts will use the following hashtags:

**Required hashtags: #USNavy #COVID19**

Optional: #C3F #USNSMercy #coronavirus

Social Media Tagging: All participating units and organizations should be tagged whenever possible in your posts. Be sure to like each of the units and organizations on respective social media accounts to ensure quicker and easier tagging.

Navy.mil Submissions

C3F will reach out to the Production lead of particular personnel if imagery is desired for Navy.mil (versus DVIDS, which will be the main submission means)

If C3F requests particular imagery, please submit high-resolution images with full caption and photo credit information (including full name, rank and duty station):

To: [photos@imagery.navy.mil](mailto:photos@imagery.navy.mil)

Cc: (b) (6)

For further questions or additional information, please contact:  
MCCS (b) (6)



**Commander, U.S. Third Fleet**  
**Public Affairs Office**

53690 Tomahawk Dr. STE 338  
San Diego, CA 92137

**Press Release**

RELEASE 20-XX

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
<http://www.c3f.navy.mil>

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**USNS Mercy Arrives in Los Angeles**

*By Commander, U.S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Fleet Public Affairs*

SAN DIEGO -- Military Sealift Command hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) arrived in Los Angeles March 31 to support the nation's COVID-19 response efforts.

While in Los Angeles, the ship will serve as a referral hospital for non-COVID-19 patients currently admitted to shore-based hospitals, and will provide a full spectrum of medical care to include general surgeries, critical care and ward care for adults. This will allow local health professionals to focus on treating COVID-19 patients and for shore-based hospitals to use their Intensive Care Units and ventilators for those patients.

Mercy is a seagoing medical treatment facility that currently has personnel embarked for the Los Angeles mission, including Navy medical and support staff assembled from 22 commands, as well as over 70 civil service mariners.

Mercy's primary mission is to provide an afloat, mobile, acute surgical medical facility to the U.S. military that is flexible, capable, and uniquely adaptable to support expeditionary warfare. Mercy's secondary mission is to provide full hospital services to support U.S. disaster relief and humanitarian operations worldwide.

U.S. 3rd Fleet leads naval forces in the Indo-Pacific and provides the realistic, relevant training necessary for an effective global Navy. U.S. 3rd Fleet works in close coordination with U.S. 7th Fleet to provide commanders with capable, ready assets across the spectrum of military operations in the Indo-Pacific.

For more news from Commander, U.S. 3rd Fleet, visit [www.navy.mil/local/c3f/](http://www.navy.mil/local/c3f/).



**Commander, U.S. Third Fleet**  
Public Affairs Office

53690 Tomahawk Dr. STE 338  
San Diego, CA 92137

## Media Advisory

RELEASE 20-XX

<http://www.c3f.navy.mil>

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***Media interested in covering the arrival of USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) in Los Angeles are requested to contact Commander, Navy Region Southwest Public Affairs at XXXXXX***

### **USNS Mercy to Arrive in Los Angeles**

*By Commander, U.S. 3rd Fleet Public Affairs*

SAN DIEGO – Military Sealift Command hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) is scheduled to arrive in Los Angeles March 31 to support the nation's COVID-19 response efforts.

While in Los Angeles, the ship will serve as a referral hospital for non-COVID-19 patients currently admitted to shore-based hospitals, and will provide a full spectrum of medical care to include urgent and critical care for adults. This will allow local health professionals to focus on treating COVID-19 patients and for shore-based hospitals to use their Intensive Care Units and ventilators for those patients.

Mercy is a seagoing medical treatment facility that currently has personnel embarked for the COVID-19 response effort, including Navy medical and support staff assembled from 22 commands, as well as over 70 civil service mariners.

Mercy's primary mission is to provide an afloat, mobile, acute surgical medical facility to the U.S. military that is flexible, capable, and uniquely adaptable to support expeditionary warfare. Mercy's secondary mission is to provide full hospital services to support U.S. disaster relief and humanitarian operations worldwide.

U.S. 3rd Fleet leads naval forces in the Indo-Pacific and provides the realistic, relevant training necessary for an effective global Navy. U.S. 3rd Fleet works in close coordination with U.S. 7th Fleet to provide commanders with capable, ready assets across the spectrum of military operations in the Indo-Pacific.

For more news from Commander, U.S. 3rd Fleet, visit [www.navy.mil/local/c3f/](http://www.navy.mil/local/c3f/).

-30-

***Media interested in covering the arrival of USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) in Los Angeles are requested to contact Commander, Navy Region Southwest Public Affairs at XXXXXX***

(b)(6)

## USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)

**From:** (b)(6) USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)  
**Sent:** Monday, March 23, 2020 8:53 AM  
**To:** (b)(6) LCDR USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA); (b)(6) USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)  
**Subject:** RE: CNN / Wolf Blitzer: CO USN Mercy & Comfort (Mon, 5-7P)  
**Signed By:** (b)(6)

Hi (b)(6) !

Things are moving quickly this morning- but I think we can get to yes for today! Let me do some coordination with the ship leaders and get back to you by lunch, does that work?

Thank you!

VR/

(b)(6)

Cell:

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**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Monday, March 23, 2020 8:30 AM  
**To:** (b)(6) LCDR USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA); (b)(6) >; (b)(6) USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b)(6)>; (b)(6) USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b)(6)>  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] RE: CNN / Wolf Blitzer: CO USN Mercy & Comfort (Mon, 5-7P)

Thank you, (b)(6)

Hi (b)(6) My direct contact below.

Is anything possible TONIGHT between 5-7P ET? If not, we can do any other day this week.

(b)(6)

Senior Editorial Producer ***"Situation Room with Wolf Blitzer"***

+

(b)(6)

work

---

**From:** (b)(6) LCDR USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA); (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Monday, March 23, 2020 11:11 AM  
**To:** (b)(6) CDR USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA); (b)(6) >; (b)(6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b)(6)>  
**Subject:** FW: CNN / Wolf Blitzer: CO USN Mercy & Comfort (Mon, 5-7P)

(b)(6)

Great chatting with you this morning – I'm connecting you to LT (b)(6) and CDR (b)(6) out at THIRD FLEET. They are working on the MERCY departure and will be able to work any possible phoners with the MERCY CO.

(b)(6)

Per (b)(6)'s note below, Wolf Blitzer is looking to chat with MERCY CO this afternoon/work with you on other options if possible.

Thanks and best,

(b)(6)

V/r,

LCDR (b)(6)  
CHINFO Newsdesk  
Navy Office of Information  
Rm: 4B463  
(b)(6)

---

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 22, 2020 10:13 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6) LT USN (USA) <(b)(6)>  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] CNN / Wolf Blitzer: CO USN Mercy & Comfort (Mon, 5-7P)

Hello,

I'm writing to request an interview with the USN Mercy or Comfort Commanding Officer to join Wolf Blitzer for a live interview tomorrow (Monday) between 5-7P ET on his show, The Situation Room, to discuss how the NAVY is providing assistance during the coronavirus pandemic.

We could conduct the interview by phone.

My direct contact is below.

Very Respectfully,

(b)(6)



(b)(6)

Senior Editorial Producer *"The Situation Room with Wolf Blitzer"*

+ (b)(6) cell  
work

(b) (6)

**PO1 USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)**

---

**From:** (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 26, 2020 10:45 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) LCDR  
**Cc:** (b) (6) LT; (b) (6) LT  
**Subject:** RE: DV Question for arrival

Affirm chuy, no one on the ship tomorrow.

(b) (6)

Secnaf I think is coming Monday. He is going to comfort with POTUS Saturday, and I believe the plan is to fly here after. That being said, I have zero use the plan or firm confirmation he is coming. We have made it clear that regular people aren't coming on or off the ship, and he knows that, but he's also the secretary... more to follow tomorrow and over the weekend. We are doing our best to beat him back... but you know how VIPs are...

Vr

(b) (6)

Sent with BlackBerry Work  
(www.blackberry.com)

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**From:** (b) (6) LCDR <(b) (6)>  
**Date:** Thursday, Mar 26, 2020, 10:39 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Cc:** (b) (6) LT <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) LT <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** DV Question for arrival

(b) (6),

Was just speaking to the CDRE tonight and I wanted to double check that no DVs will actually be coming on to the ship.

We are tracking that Governor Newsom, (b) (6) (Los Angeles), (b) (6) (FEMA District 9), and RDML (b) (6) (ESG-3) will be at the terminal but want to ensure there is no plan to bring them aboard Mercy.

Please confirm.

V/R

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

## PO1 USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)

**From:** (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 25, 2020 8:35 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA); (b) (6) CDR USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)  
**Subject:** RE: Gov Newsom Announces MERCY Arrival Date

Yeah, you're right. Tracking it would be lead by FEMA, redistributed by us to our distro.

Does that sound right to you?

V/r,

(b) (6)

Very respectfully,

LT (b) (6)  
P-Deputy Public Affairs Officer  
Commander, U.S. Third Fleet

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 25, 2020 8:27 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) CDR USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)> (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** FW: Gov Newsom Announces MERCY Arrival Date  
**Importance:** High

Why are we issuing the press release? This should be fema as the lead agency right?

Sent with BlackBerry Work  
(www.blackberry.com)

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**From:** (b) (6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Date:** Wednesday, Mar 25, 2020, 8:25 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) CDR USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)> (b) (6) CDR USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA) <(b) (6)> (b) (6) LT USN SECOND FLEET (USA) <(b) (6)> (b) (6) CIV USN COMSC NORFOLK VA (USA) <(b) (6)> (b) (6) RDML USN (USA) <(b) (6)> (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)> (b) (6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)> (b) (6) CDR USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA) <(b) (6)> (b) (6) CAPT USN COMPACFLT (USA) <(b) (6)> (b) (6) CDR USN COMPACFLT (USA) <(b) (6)> (b) (6) LCDR USN (US) <(b) (6)> (b) (6) CDR USN (USA) <(b) (6)> (b) (6) LT USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA) <(b) (6)>



(b) (6) >, (b) (6) LCDR USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA)  
<(b) (6) >, (b) (6) CAPT USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA)  
<(b) (6) >, (b) (6) RDML CHINFO, OI-00 <(b) (6) >, (b) (6) CIV  
NORAD-USNC SPC STF (US) <(b) (6) >, (b) (6) <(b) (6) >, (b) (6)  
(b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6) >, (b) (6) LCDR USN VCNO (USA)  
<(b) (6) >, (b) (6) MCPO USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6) >, (b) (6) CIV  
USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA) <(b) (6) >, (b) (6) CIV USN (USA)  
(b) (6) >, (b) (6) CIV USN DNS (USA) <(b) (6) >, (b) (6)  
CIV USN (USA) <(b) (6) >

**Subject:** RE: Gov Newsom Announces MERCY Arrival Date

CHINFO Team,

With respect to CA Gov's announcement of MERCY arrival Friday (which C3F confirms is the plan), pls confirm OSD is good with us communicating same – would be RTQ today; however, tomorrow expect that a media advisory (coordinated with FEMA, city, state) will need to go out.

Thank you!

V/r, (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 25, 2020 5:55 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) CDR USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6) > (b) (6) CDR USN CHINFO  
WASHINGTON DC (USA) <(b) (6) > (b) (6) LT USN SECOND FLEET (USA)  
<(b) (6) > (b) (6) CIV USN COMSC NORFOLK VA (USA) <(b) (6) >;  
(b) (6) RDML USN (USA) <(b) (6) >, (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)  
<(b) (6) >, (b) (6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6) >; (b) (6)  
(b) (6) CDR USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA) <(b) (6) >; (b) (6) CAPT USN COMPACFLT  
(USA) <(b) (6) >, (b) (6) CDR USN COMPACFLT (USA) <(b) (6) >;  
(b) (6) <(b) (6) > (b) (6) LCDR USN (US)  
<(b) (6) >, (b) (6) CDR USN (USA) <(b) (6) >, (b) (6) LT USN  
CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA) <(b) (6) >, (b) (6) LCDR USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC  
(USA) <(b) (6) >, (b) (6) CAPT USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA)  
<(b) (6) >, (b) (6) RDML CHINFO, OI-00 <(b) (6) >; (b) (6) CIV  
NORAD-USNC SPC STF (US) <(b) (6) >, (b) (6) LT USN  
COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6) >, (b) (6) LCDR USN VCNO (USA) <(b) (6) >  
(b) (6) MCPO USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6) > CIV USN CHINFO WASHINGTON  
DC (USA) <(b) (6) > CIV USN (USA) <(b) (6) >  
(b) (6) CIV USN DNS (USA) <(b) (6) > CIV USN (USA) <(b) (6) >

**Subject:** RE: Gov Newsom Announces MERCY Arrival Date

Thanks, (b) (6) — CHINFO: please verify we're clear (ie w/OSD).

Thanks.

V/r, (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) CDR USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6) >  
**Date:** Wednesday, Mar 25, 2020, 12:02 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) CDR USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA) <(b) (6) > (b) (6)  
(b) (6) LT USN SECOND FLEET (USA) <(b) (6) > (b) (6) CIV USN COMSC  
NORFOLK VA (USA) <(b) (6) > RDML USN (USA) <(b) (6) >, <(b) (6) >  
(b) (6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6) > LT USN COMTHIRDFLT  
(USA) <(b) (6) > CAPT USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6) >  
(b) (6) CDR USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA) <(b) (6) > CAPT USN  
COMPACFLT (USA) <(b) (6) > CDR USN COMPACFLT (USA)

<(b) (6)>  
LCDR USN (US) (b) (6) (b) (6) CDR USN (USA) <(b) (6)>  
(b) (6) LT USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA) <(b) (6)> LCDR USN  
CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA) <(b) (6)> CAPT USN CHINFO  
WASHINGTON DC (USA) <(b) (6)> RDML CHINFO, OI-00  
<(b) (6)> CIV NORAD-USNC SPC STF (US) <(b) (6)> ,  
(b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)  
<(b) (6)> LCDR USN VCNO (USA) (b) (6) MCPO USN  
USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)> CIV USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA)  
<(b) (6)> CIV USN (USA) <(b) (6)>  
CIV USN DNS (USA) <(b) (6)> CIV USN (USA) (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Gov Newsom Announces MERCY Arrival Date

All,

Gov Newsom announced MERCY will arrive Friday in a Facebook Live post this evening. Link is below, announcement is made at beginning of conference, 6 min in.

When queried, unless there's an objection in this group, we will respond with:

"We are aware of Governor Newsom's announcement and we are planning for a Friday arrival at a time to be determined."

Link to video: <https://www.facebook.com/CAgovernor/videos/1512420388922184/>

No queries received yet but anticipate we'll start getting them soon.

V/r,

(b) (6)

CDR (b) (6)  
Special Assistant for Public Affairs to  
Commander, U.S. Third Fleet  
Fleet Public Affairs Officer  
Email: (b) (6) (SIPR: + .smil)  
Phone: (b) (6)

"America was not built on fear. America was built on courage, on imagination, and an unbeatable determination to do the job at hand." — Harry S Truman, 33rd President of the United States

(b) (6)

## PO1 USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)

**From:** (b) (6) A LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)  
**Sent:** Monday, March 23, 2020 3:43 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA); (b) (6) CIV USN COMSC  
NORFOLK VA (USA); (b) (6) CDR USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA);  
(b) (6) RDML USN (USA); (b) (6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA);  
(b) (6) CDR USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA); (b) (6)  
CAPT USN COMPACFLT (USA); (b) (6) CDR USN COMPACFLT (USA);  
(b) (6) ; (b) (6) LCDR USN (US); (b) (6)  
(b) (6) LT USN SECOND FLEET (USA); (b) (6) CDR USN  
COMTHIRDFLT (USA); (b) (6) CDR USN (USA); (b) (6) LT USN  
CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA); (b) (6) LCDR USN CHINFO WASHINGTON  
DC (USA); (b) (6) CAPT USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA); (b) (6),  
(b) (6) RDML CHINFO, OI-00; (b) (6) CIV NORAD-USNC SPC STF (US);  
(b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA); (b) (6)  
LT USN CNO (USA); (b) (6) LCDR USN VCNO (USA); (b) (6) MCPO USN  
USFFC (USA); (b) (6) CIV USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA); (b) (6)  
(b) (6) CIV USN (USA); (b) (6) CIV USN DNS (USA); (b) (6)  
(b) (6) CDR USN CNO (USA); (b) (6) LCDR USN SECNAV WASHINGTON DC  
(USA); (b) (6) LT USN COMEXSTRKGRU THREE (USA); (b) (6) LT USN  
COMTHIRDFLT (USA); (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: Hospital Ship PA synch- READ AHEAD  
**Attachments:** OSD(PA) Initial Clips- MERCY.docx  
**Signed By:** (b) (6)

Sir, All,

Providing a more detailed roll-up from today:

Pentagon Press Call went very well. I do not have all the outlets that were on the line, but OSD will be providing the full list, along with a full transcript for our records. We conducted the call for about 25 minutes, and the questions were all expected and prepared for within the PPAG and the prep package. The leadership group felt confident after that press engagement. I have included the OSD(PA) initial clips package here. Topics discussed on the call included:

- When will Mercy arrive in LA
- Will it be operational
- Personnel breakdown: reservist versus active duty and where did they come from?
- Is there an end to this mission
- Are hospitals coordinating directly with you? What is the need?
- Logistics of how a patient gets to Mercy
- How many beds does the hospital have
- Plan for COVID cases on the ship- ship's company or patient
- Infection control measures in place
- Is the ship ready
- How long will this mission last
- What kind of care will you provide patients
- Can you walk me through the COVID screening process
- Do you have enough COVID tests?
- Baseline cost for this mission

The in-person press conference had multiple local outlets including NBC, ABC, Telemundo, Fox, NBC LA, and KUSI, along with a few freelance reporters. Everyone was well-behaved and the line of questioning was similar to the above, with one or two more localized questions that the admiral answered about local COVID response here in San Diego. I believe environmental played a little in this event, it was very windy, and I think there were more nerves for this event since the cameras were right there. They weren't protected by a conference call like the PPC call.

Overall I assess both events as a success- all our key messages were emphasized, including the support role and FEMA as the lead agency, and we successfully utilized social media to ensure our events got traction (with the help of the OI-2 team!).

We have pushed out some imagery already of the departure and there is more my MCs are working through at this time. We also have MCs around the San Diego channel getting "the shots" as Mercy sails out of the channel. Last, we also pushed out a b-roll package of interior shots of the ship. More interior b-roll is coming!

Standing by for any questions or concerns and sincerely appreciate all the support to make today a success.

VR/

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 23, 2020 12:26 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) CIV USN COMSC NORFOLK VA (USA) <(b) (6)> A LT USN  
COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)> CDR USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA)  
<(b) (6)> RDML USN (USA) <(b) (6)> T CAPT  
USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)> CDR USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA)  
<(b) (6)> CAPT USN COMPACFLT (USA) <(b) (6)> CDR  
USN COMPACFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>  
<(b) (6)> LCDR USN (US) <(b) (6)>  
(b) (6) LT USN SECOND FLEET (USA) <(b) (6)> CDR USN COMTHIRDFLT  
(USA) <(b) (6)> CDR USN (USA) <(b) (6)> LT USN  
CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA) <(b) (6)> LCDR USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC  
(USA) <(b) (6)> CAPT USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA)  
(b) (6) RDML CHINFO, OI-00 <(b) (6)> CIV  
NORAD-USNC SPC STF (US) <(b) (6)> LT USN  
COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)> LT USN CNO (USA) <(b) (6)>  
(b) (6) LCDR USN VCNO (USA) <(b) (6)> MCPO USN USFFC (USA)  
<(b) (6)> CIV USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA)  
<(b) (6)> CIV USN (USA) <(b) (6)>  
CIV USN DNS (USA) <(b) (6)> CDR USN CNO (USA)  
<Nathan (b) (6)> M LCDR USN SECNAV WASHINGTON DC (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** RE: Hospital Ship PA synch- READ AHEAD

(b) (6) concur with all from USFF – BZ! ... you're well-prepared for the pier-side media avail.

Keep up the great work, and make sure we get some great imagery out today!

V/r, (b) (6)

CAPT (b) (6)  
USFF PAO

**From:** (b) (6) CIV USN COMSC NORFOLK VA (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 23, 2020 3:15 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)> (b) (6) CDR USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA) <(b) (6)> RDML USN (USA) <(b) (6)>; (b) (6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)> (b) (6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)> CDR USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA) <(b) (6)> CAPT USN COMPACFLT (USA) <(b) (6)> CDR USN COMPACFLT (USA) <(b) (6)> (b) (6) LCDR USN (US) <(b) (6)> (b) (6) LT USN SECOND FLEET (USA) <(b) (6)> CDR USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)> CDR USN (USA) <(b) (6)> LT USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA) <(b) (6)> LCDR USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA) <(b) (6)> CAPT USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA) <(b) (6)> RDML CHINFO, OI-00 <(b) (6)> CIV NORAD-USNC SPC STF (US) <(b) (6)> LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)> LT USN CNO (USA) <(b) (6)> (b) (6) LCDR USN VCNO (USA) <(b) (6)> MCPO USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)> CIV USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA) <(b) (6)> CIV USN (USA) <(b) (6)> CIV USN DNS (USA) <(b) (6)> CDR USN CNO (USA) <(b) (6)> LCDR USN SECNAV WASHINGTON DC (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** RE: Hospital Ship PA synch- READ AHEAD

(b) (6)

I thought it went very well. If you get anymore cost questions refer them to MSC and we'll take and staff.

Thanks (b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 23, 2020 3:11 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) CDR USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA) <(b) (6)> RDML USN (USA) <(b) (6)> CAPT USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)> (b) (6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)> CDR USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA) <(b) (6)> CAPT USN COMPACFLT (USA) <(b) (6)> (b) (6) CDR USN COMPACFLT (USA) <(b) (6)> CIV USN COMSC NORFOLK VA (USA) <(b) (6)> LCDR USN (US) <(b) (6)> LT USN SECOND FLEET (USA) <(b) (6)> CDR USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)> CDR USN (USA) <(b) (6)> LT USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA) <(b) (6)> LCDR USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA) <(b) (6)> CAPT USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA) <(b) (6)> RDML CHINFO, OI-00 <(b) (6)> CIV NORAD-USNC SPC STF (US) <(b) (6)> LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)> USN CNO (USA) <(b) (6)> (b) (6) LCDR USN VCNO (USA) <(b) (6)> MCPO USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)> CIV USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA) <(b) (6)> CIV USN (USA) <(b) (6)> CIV USN DNS (USA) <(b) (6)> CDR USN CNO (USA) <(b) (6)> LCDR USN SECNAV WASHINGTON DC (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** RE: Hospital Ship PA synch- READ AHEAD

Sir, Team,

I'm not sure if anyone from thread dialed in to the Pentagon Press Corps call, but my initial feedback is the event went extremely well and the SMEs were well prepared for all questions. All questions were as expected and answered in the PAG/ prep package.

OSD PA will get us a transcript when able.

Current reports from (b) (6) are over 20 trucks waiting at the gate for the in person presser.

I will send a full roll up later this evening!

Vr

(b) (6)

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(www.blackberry.com)

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**From:** (b) (6) CDR USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA) (b) (6) >  
**Date:** Monday, Mar 23, 2020, 11:46 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) RDML USN (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) A LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) CDR USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) CAPT USN COMPACFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) CDR USN COMPACFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) CIV USN COMSC NORFOLK VA (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) LCDR USN (US) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) LT USN SECOND FLEET (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) CDR USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) CDR USN (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) LT USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) LCDR USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) CAPT USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) RDML CHINFO, OI-00 <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) CIV NORAD-USNC SPC STF (US) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) LT USN CNO (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) LCDR USN VCNO (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) MCPO USN USFFC (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) CIV USN (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) CIV USN DNS (USA) (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) CDR USN CNO (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) LCDR USN SECNAV WASHINGTON DC (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** RE: Hospital Ship PA synch- READ AHEAD

Sir/ALCON,

Attached is the latest version of the PAG. IN order to make this a useable document and routed to OSD and senior leaders, I've cleaned it up based on conversations with some of you and deleted outstanding Q's we still have not yet received answers to. Please let me know if you have any questions or feedback. Thanks.

v/r

(b) (6)

CDR (b) (6) APR+M  
Assistant Chief of Information

Communication Integration  
U.S. Navy Office of Information (CHINFO)  
Comm: (b) (6)

PRINT/ONLINE COVERAGE (CNN, Military Times, Politico Pro)

Esper says military 'can't meet everybody's needs' as coronavirus outbreak escalates  
CNN | Ryan Browne and Barbara Starr

Secretary of Defense Mark Esper said Monday that he has received requests for assistance from multiple governors and stated the military "can't meet everybody's needs," as the coronavirus pandemic continues to escalate.

However, he did say that the Pentagon is looking to send military field hospitals to New York and Seattle to help support local medical systems which are struggling to cope with a large number of virus cases. That would be in addition to the hospital ships being sent to New York and Los Angeles and the military working to convert civilian buildings into hospitals.

"I've spoken with seven, eight, nine, 10 governors so far. Each one of them has had requests for field hospitals. Those who have been along the coastline have talked about the need for ships, so we clearly can't meet everybody's needs with what we have in our inventory so we rely on (the Federal Emergency Management Agency) to do the assessment, validation and then the prioritization," Esper said.

Esper said he has ordered five expeditionary medical facilities to prepare to deploy, though the location of those deployments will depend on guidance from FEMA.

"Right now I anticipate sending a hospital to Seattle and a hospital to New York City and beyond that once that's confirmed we will look at sending to other places, and as necessary we will continue to alert units to prepare to deploy and deploy them as appropriate," Esper added.

The Pentagon has also ordered two of the Navy's hospital ships, the USNS Comfort and USNS Mercy, to deploy to New York City and Los Angeles respectively to help alleviate some of the strain on civilian medical infrastructure.

"We expect to be there within the week and we anticipate being able to begin taking patients the day after we arrive, we definitely have a sense of urgency and want to be there as quickly as we can," Capt. John Rotruck, the commanding officer of the medical facility on the USNS Mercy, said Monday.

The Comfort is expected to arrive in New York later.

Esper said he anticipates the field hospitals being used to temporarily alleviate the strain on civilian hospitals in order to allow the US Army Corps of Engineers to retrofit hotels, convention centers and college dormitories into makeshift hospitals.

"How I foresee our hospitals being used is during the early stages of the pandemic, the virus hitting a city where they're still trying to ramp up capability, bed space, we can come in for a short period of time, for a few weeks to provide that capacity until they get either gyms converted, hotels converted, college dorms converted, all those things that the Corps of Engineers is working on right now," Esper said.

The head of the Army Corps of Engineers said Friday that such retrofitting could take three to four weeks.



"What we're talking about is the need for thousands of beds. We can provide in a field hospital 248 and we only have so many field hospitals so I see us playing this role where we're the gap filler for a period of weeks with our capabilities once the capacity is met through these other mechanisms," Esper said, while adding, "We can then pullout and go to the next site and cover again that gap for the next city or locality that is ramping up."

\*\*\*

Hospital ship Mercy to Los Angeles, military field hospitals to New York and Seattle  
Military Times | Meghann Myers

In anticipating that the COVID-19 epidemic will soon overwhelm Los Angeles-area hospitals, the Naval Base San Diego hospital ship Mercy is getting underway Monday afternoon to take the pressure off.

The ship will have more than 1,100 personnel on board, according to the commanding officer of the ship's medical treatment center, and should arrive at the Port of Los Angeles later this week, ready to go operational the following day.

"Essentially every patient transfer will be an inter-hospital transfer," Capt. John Rotruck told reporters Monday. "We're prepared to offer pretty broad range of critical care and other care."

Officials reiterated that the Mercy, which has 1,000 beds and a dozen operating rooms but is not set up to follow the kinds of isolation protocol needed to prevent the spread of the highly contagious virus, will be taking in patients from local medical centers in order to free up beds and equipment for COVID-19 patients.

Military hospital ships are designed to take patients from with traumatic combat injuries, but can handle a wide range of medical needs. Mercy will not be delivering babies or taking any pediatric patients, however, Rotruck said.

In order to prevent coronavirus from coming onto the ship, officials said, all personnel and patients will be screened for fevers, symptoms and any contact with COVID-19 patients.

Ship personnel will also take additional disinfection measures, per Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance, while transferring off the ship anyone who does become infected and tracing their contact with anyone else on the ship.

On the East Coast, the hospital ship Comfort is cutting short its maintenance availability to head up to New York in the coming weeks. The ships are one part of the Defense Department's assistance to civilian public health agencies.

Elsewhere, Defense Secretary Esper said Monday, five active duty medical units are on alert to man field hospitals in New York and Seattle. Those ad hoc facilities would act much like the hospital ships, freeing up brick-and-mortar medical centers to focus on COVID-19 patients.

"And as necessary we will continue to alert units to prepare to deploy and then deploy them as appropriate," Esper said.

In his opinion, he said, military field hospitals will be temporary solution for cities who are planning to build new hospitals or convert gymnasiums, dormitories and other facilities into more space for hospital beds.

"I see us playing this role where we're the gap-filler for a period of weeks, with our capabilities," Esper said. "Once the capacity is met through these other mechanisms ... we can then pull out and go to the next site and cover, again, that gap for the next city or locality that is ramping up."

\*\*\*

Hospital ship Mercy set to arrive in Los Angeles within the week  
Politico Pro | Lara Seligman

The USNS Mercy, one of the Navy's twin hospital ships dispatched to help local authorities deal with the coronavirus pandemic, is launching today for the port of Los Angeles and will reach its destination within the week, Navy officials told reporters.

It's only a short distance from the Mercy's homeport of San Diego to Los Angeles, but the ship's crew must conduct a number of tests and training operations at sea prior to arrival, Navy officials said.

The Mercy, which is outfitted with 1,000 hospital beds, will begin taking patients the day after it arrives in Los Angeles, said Mercy commanding officer Capt. John Rotruck, stressing that the ship will accept non-Covid-19 patients in order to relieve pressure on local hospitals dealing with the virus.

The ship will serve as "a relief valve," Rotruck said.

The Mercy has a crew of more than 800 medical professionals and is staffed by 1,128 active-duty sailors and 58 reservists, said Rear Adm. Tim Weber, commander of Naval Medical Forces Pacific. The reservists are volunteers and will not be taken from local medical communities.

Rotruck said the ship is prepared to stay "as long as necessary" in Los Angeles and can potentially sail to other ports along the West Coast as directed by FEMA.

\*\*\*

#### SELECT TWITTER COVERAGE

Roxana Tiron, Bloomberg Government (@rtiron)

- \* USN Mercy will be pier-side LA within the week.
- \* The ship is leaving San Diego today at 2 pm local time towards LA
- \* USN Mercy will have a total of about 1128 staff on board once in LA; ship is prepared to stay there as long as needed and can move to different locations should FEMA determine that.
- \* It'll dock within the Port of Los Angeles

Mary Walsh, CBS News (@CBSWalsh)

\* USNS Mercy departs San Diego this afternoon but she needs to complete testing at sea so the hospital ship won't arrive LA for a week; that will give medical teams time to complete their training too @USNavy

Andrew Clevenger, CQ Roll Call (@andclev)

\* NOW: USNS Mercy will arrive in LA w/in the week, and start accepting patients the next day, Capt. John Rotruck, #USNSMercy's commanding officer says. Approx 1200 personnel (mostly active duty) involved, dealing with non-#COVID19 cases to free up resources for hospitals & #Covid19

\* Eventually, #USNSMercy's will have 1128 personnel, mostly active duty. They will not have been tested for #COVID19 before embarking, but will be screened to try to weed out any possible positive cases. Will dock within Port of Los Angeles. Departs 14:00 local time.

Lara Seligman, Politico (@laraseligman)

\* RDML Weber and Capt. Rotruck brief reporters now at the Pentagon about the USNS Mercy deployment to Los Angeles. Officials say the ship will arrive within the week and plans to begin taking patients the day after arrival.

\* Navy officials say the USNS Mercy is ready to go on a five-day activation schedule at all times. The ship is prepared to stay in Los Angeles until the need is met, and to move on to whatever port of destination that FEMA directs

Paul D. Shinkman, U.S. News & World Report (@PDSinkman)

\* Commanders of USNS Mercy: Hospital ship will arrive at its destination within a week, can begin taking patients a day after. On Board: 1128 active duty sailors, 58 reservists. All reservists are volunteers, and not taken from those contributing to local community healthcare

\* Will only provide support for patients who have not tested positive for coronavirus/COVID-19. Deployment designed to relieve pressure on hospitals overwhelmed by the virus' spread.

\* Non-COVID19 cases already admitted in hospitals can be transferred to #USNSMercy. If they end up w/a patient who tests positive for #Coronavirus on board the Mercy, that patient will be transferred off of the ship, Capt Rotruck says.

\* Commanding officer Capt. John Rotruck: "We are prepared to stay as long as necessary in Los Angeles" and can sail to other points along the West Coast per guidance from FEMA or other higher authorities.

\* Medical services on the ship include "a wide variety" of care, but not specialties such as obstetrics or pediatrics, the captain says.

\* The ship's master says the Mercy has some required tests it must perform at sea before sailing to its destination, Los Angeles, including teams onboard training as a team.

Carla Babb, Voice of America (@CarlaBabbVOA)

\* #BREAKING USNS #Mercy leaving San Diego for port of Los Angeles at 5pm EDT (2pm in San Diego), according to the @USNavy #COVID—19

**From:** (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)  
**To:** (b) (6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA); (b) (6) CDR USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA); (b) (6) LCDR USN (USA); (b) (6) LT USN SECOND FLEET (USA); (b) (6) LCDR USN (USA); (b) (6) CIV USN COMSC NORFOLK VA (USA); (b) (6) CIV USN COMSC NORFOLK VA (USA)  
**Cc:** (b) (6) CAPT USN NPASE NORFOLK VA (USA); (b) (6) CAPT USN COMPACFLT (USA); (b) (6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA); (b) (6) CDR USN NPASE NORFOLK VA (USA); (b) (6) LCDR USN USFFC (USA); (b) (6) MCPO USN USFFC (USA); (b) (6) CPO USN (USA); (b) (6) CDR USN (USA); (b) (6) LCDR USN NPASE WEST SAN CA (USA); (b) (6) CIV USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA); (b) (6) LCDR USN (USA)  
**Subject:** RE: IMPORTANT--- PLEASE READ! HIPAA & film/photo patients  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 24, 2020 7:34:25 AM

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Ma'am-

Team Mercy is in receipt of this guidance, have all been briefed and understand.

Vr

(b) (6)

Sent with BlackBerry Work  
(www.blackberry.com)

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**From:** (b) (6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Date:** Monday, Mar 23, 2020, 7:51 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) CDR USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) LCDR USN (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) LT USN SECOND FLEET (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) LCDR USN (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) CIV USN COMSC NORFOLK VA (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) CIV USN COMSC NORFOLK VA (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Cc:** (b) (6) CAPT USN NPASE NORFOLK VA (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) CAPT USN COMPACFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) CDR USN NPASE NORFOLK VA (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) LCDR USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) MCPO USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) CPO USN (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) CDR USN (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) LCDR USN NPASE WEST SAN CA (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) CIV USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) LCDR USN (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** IMPORTANT--- PLEASE READ! HIPAA & film/photo patients

Team,

Please ensure your teams read and understand the attached guidance and email below related to media and HIPAA regulations.

BLUF: No imagery of patients without permission and a signed consent form!

C3F, Please provide confirmation that LCDR (b) (6) has received and has briefed his team.

Thanks and V/r,

(b) (6)

CAPT (b) (6), APR  
Deputy Director, Fleet Public Affairs  
U.S. Fleet Forces Command

(b) (6) (o); (b) (6) (c)

(b) (6) - NIPR

(b) (6) - SIPR

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**From:** (b) (6) CDR USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)>

**Sent:** Monday, March 23, 2020 6:26 PM

**To:** (b) (6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)>; (b) (6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)>

**Cc:** (b) (6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)>

**Subject:** HIPAA & film/photo patients

CAPT (b) (6) and CAPT (b) (6),

Passed FYI and potential action as needed.

Filming or photographing patients is a frequent HIPAA question that often arises in relation to missions similar to CTF & MER.

According to BUMED's Privacy Program Office, if media access is granted, patients must provide an authorization (DD2870) to be filmed. If the patient does not consent, then media must ensure they do not capture images of patients or patients' private health information without patient permission.

PAOs onboard CTF and MER should be coordinating to ensure patients not interested in being filmed are not captured and that includes patients who are not able to give consent. Each ship should have an SOP for the media; the Director for Administration (DFA) can direct the PAO to that information.

Please see attached; also available at:

<https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/faq/2023/film-and-media/index.html>

CTF's primary POC for Healthcare Law questions:

- Primary - (b) (6),
- Secondary - (b) (6)
- Other legal issues - CDR (b) (6)

Thank you,

V/r,

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

CDR, JAGC, USN

Fleet Operational Law Counsel  
US Fleet Forces Command  
1562 Mitscher Ave, Suite 250, Norfolk, VA 23551-2487

COM: (b) (6)

DSN: (b) (6)

NIPR: (b) (6)

SIPR: (b) (6)

JWCS: (b) (6)

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FOUO-Privacy Sensitive. Any misuse or unauthorized disclosure may result in both civil and criminal penalties.

(b) (6)

## PO1 USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)

**From:** (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 26, 2020 6:35 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) CAPT USN (USA)  
**Cc:** (b) (6) CDR USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA); (b) (6) CIV USN (USA); (b) (6) LT USN COMEXSTRKGRU THREE (USA)  
**Subject:** RE: INFO: 25 Mar LA Overview & Proposed Contacts

Sir,

If possible- if RDML (b) (6) stays- I'd like to get on his schedule for a media prep session.

CDR (b) (6) briefly discussed it with VADM (b) (6) last night, but the Boss said we would flush out details today.

Just wanted to put that plug in there that PA may need to get on his schedule. Thank you!!

Vr

(b) (6)

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**From:** (b) (6) CAPT USN (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Date:** Wednesday, Mar 25, 2020, 11:37 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) RDML USN COMEXSTRKGRU THREE (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Cc:** (b) (6) Col USMC USN COMEXSTRKGRU THREE (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) LCDR USN (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) PO2 USN (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) LT USN (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) LT USN COMEXSTRKGRU THREE (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) CDR USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) LT USN COMEXSTRKGRU THREE (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) CIV USN (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** INFO: 25 Mar LA Overview & Proposed Contacts

Admiral (b) (6),

BLUF: Additional info re: VADM (b) (6) and your visit to LA provided below.

Background:

- 26 Mar site visit for leadership SA
- Also opportunity to thank key local agency reps in appropriate small group settings
- Accomplished within 2 hours

Discussion:

Basic Mechanics

- Arrival ~1045 at IOWA parking lot
  - + Met by: CAPT (b) (6) & Port of LA rep
- Movement ~700' to 1st MTSA entry point
  - + Encounter:
    - LCDR (b) (6) (ESG-3 SECO); accompanies through ECP
    - LCDR (b) (6) USCG (maritime response lead)
    - Capt. (b) (6), LA Port Police (incident commander)
- Movement ~0.3 mi across parking lot to vehicle access point
  - + Encounter: Capt. (b) (6), USMC (security det OIC); accompanies through ECP
- Movement ~0.1 mi up ramp to ambulance exit point
  - + Encounter: LT (b) (6) (FST-9 medical planner); accompanies through patient transfer area
- Movement across sidewalk to ECP & patient transfer area
- (1130) Thank you to local leadership (in patient transfer area)
- Movement ~0.4 mi to Battleship IOWA
  - + Executive discussions with ADVON
  - + Phone calls to elected leadership
  - + Preparation for departure
- (1300) Movement ~300' to LZ

Anticipated contact:

- In-Person (1130, pier 93 terminal):

- (b) (6) – Executive Director, Port of Los Angeles (b) (6)
- (b) (6) – Chief of Los Angeles Port Police
- CAPT (b) (6), USCG, Sector Commander & Captain of the Port, LA/Long Beach
- CAPT (b) (6), USN, Navy Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officer
- Col (b) (6), USA, Army Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officer
- (b) (6) – Operations Chief for California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES)
- (b) (6) – FEMA External Support Branch Director
- (b) (6) – Deputy Executive Director (Cargo & Customer Relations), Port of Los Angeles
- (b) (6) – Deputy Executive Director (Development), Port of Los Angeles
- (b) (6) – Ports America Terminal Manager
- (b) (6) – Captain, Los Angeles Port Police & Incident Commander for COVID-19 Response/MERCY
- (b) (6) – Chief, LA/Long Beach Seaport Division, U.S. Customs and Border Patrol
- (b) (6) – CEO and President of Battleship Iowa, LA Fleet Week, and San Pedro Business Improvement District

- Phone Call (either before departure or after return to Point Loma):

- (b) (6) – Mayor of Los Angeles (b) (6)
- (b) (6) – Deputy Mayor of Los Angeles for Homeland Security and Public Safety (b) (6)
- (b) (6) – Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors 4<sup>th</sup> District (b) (6)
- (b) (6) – Los Angeles City Council for the 15<sup>th</sup> District (b) (6)

No press coverage planned, but opportunity exists for local media to be staking out the port and capture helo arrival/departure. PA team and VADM (b) (6) aide cc'd.



We can adjust as necessary.

V/r,

(b) (6)

CAPT (b) (6), USN

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b)(6)

## USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)

**From:** (b)(6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)  
**Sent:** Monday, March 23, 2020 7:14 AM  
**To:** (b)(6) LT USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA); CHINFONEWSDESK  
**Cc:** CDR USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA); (b)(6) CIV USN (USA); (b)(6)  
CIV USN COMSC NORFOLK VA (USA)  
**Subject:** RE: Inside Edition inquiry

Done! Thanks

Vr

(b)(6)

Sent with BlackBerry Work  
(www.blackberry.com)

---

**From:** (b)(6) LT USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA) <(b)(6)>  
**Date:** Monday, Mar 23, 2020, 6:54 AM  
**To:** CHINFONEWSDESK <(b)(6)>, (b)(6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)  
<(b)(6)>  
**Cc:** CDR USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b)(6)>, (b)(6) CIV USN (USA)  
<(b)(6)>, (b)(6) CIV USN COMSC NORFOLK VA (USA) <(b)(6)>  
**Subject:** RE: Inside Edition inquiry

(b)(6),

Inside edition is asking for B-Roll of Mercy. Can you assist?

Very respectfully,  
LT (b)(6)

CHINFO News Desk

---

**From:** (b)(6) [(b)(6)]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 23, 2020 9:39 AM  
**To:** CHINFONEWSDESK  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Inside Edition inquiry

Dear PAO,

INSIDE EDITION would like to find out the ETA of the USNMercy from San Diego to the Port of Los Angeles.

Also is the US Navy allowing any media tours of the USNMercy upon its arrival at the Port of Los Angeles and/or is there any Broll/footage of the interior of the ship. If so, when and how will this access or footage be made available.

Best regards,

(b)(6)

Asst News Bureau Chief  
INSIDE EDITION

(b)(6)

cell

(b)(6)

**PO1 USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)**

**From:** (b)(6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 24, 2020 2:23 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6) CDR USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA); (b)(6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)  
**Subject:** RE: Media Request regarding Mercy Naval Hosp.

(b)(6) ,

I have added you to the media distro for the media advisory.

For images and video of the Mercy, please see our DVIDS page:  
<https://www.dvidshub.net/feature/NavyHospitalShipsCOVID19>

For any specific interview requests (via Skype) let me know what you envision and I will link you up with the ship!

Very respectfully,  
LT (b)(6)  
P-Deputy Public Affairs Officer  
Commander, U.S. Third Fleet

(b)(6)

---

**From:** (b)(6) <(b)(6)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 24, 2020 2:15 PM  
**To:** (b)(6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b)(6)>  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Media Request regarding Mercy Naval Hosp.

Good Afternoon Lieutenant

I am a news reporter for Univision Network News for the show Primer Impacto. We are the national news magazine (spanish ) at 5:00pm

I am respectfully inquiring in advance about the media protocol to cover the arrival of the Mercy Hospital at the Los Angeles port.

please advice the media availability and when do you expect the Mercy to arrive

we are very interested in virtual tours or any images that will highlight the arrival and services the Mercy is providing during this crisis to the angelinos . also on location instructions to cover the arrival

thanks in advance

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

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(b)(6) | Reporter/Producer | Univision Communications Inc. | 5999 Center Drive, Los Angeles, CA, 90045  
Direct: (b)(6) | (b)(6) | <http://www.univision.com>



---

**From:** (b)(6)

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 24, 2020 1:56:26 PM

**To:** (b)(6)

**Subject:** test to forward media request

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(b) (6)

## PO1 USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)

**From:** (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 26, 2020 6:19 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA); (b) (6) CDR USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)  
**Cc:** (b) (6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA); (b) (6) CDR USN CHINFO  
WASHINGTON DC (USA); (b) (6) CDR USN (USA); (b) (6) LT USN  
COMTHIRDFLT (USA); (b) (6) CIV USN (USA); (b) (6) MCPO USN  
USFFC (USA); (b) (6) LCDR USN (US); (b) (6) LT  
USN SECOND FLEET (USA)  
**Subject:** RE: MERCY Arrival

Negative, sir, but he is arriving on scene today and we already have plans to prep him.

Once we regroup today, now knowing all the details from other agencies and state, I'll draft up a more detailed media and production plan for tomorrow and Saturday (first patients). Should have that to you sir by lunch our time.

Vr

(b) (6)

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(www.blackberry.com)

---

**From:** (b) (6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Date:** Thursday, Mar 26, 2020, 6:16 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) CDR USN  
COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Cc:** (b) (6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) CDR USN CHINFO  
WASHINGTON DC (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) CDR USN (USA) <(b) (6)>,  
(b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) CIV USN (USA)  
<(b) (6)>, (b) (6) MCPO USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6)  
LCDR USN (US) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) LT USN SECOND FLEET (USA)  
<(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** RE: MERCY Arrival

Thanks, (b) (6) — I'm sure some of these details will be in the plan you all provide later. Did RDML  
(b) (6) participate in your original prep sessions?

V/r, (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Date:** Thursday, Mar 26, 2020, 8:49 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) CDR USN COMTHIRDFLT  
(USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Cc:** (b) (6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) CDR USN CHINFO  
WASHINGTON DC (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) USN (USA) <(b) (6)>,  
(b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) CIV USN (USA)  
<(b) (6)>, (b) (6) MCPO USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6)

LCDR USN (US) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) LT USN SECOND FLEET (USA)

<(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** RE: MERCY Arrival

Sir,

To clarify, personnel currently on the ship are not allowed off the ship, To include the MTF CO. Personnel like us who are not on the ship are not allowed through the ECP and not allowed to interact with people on the ship. This is all being done in an abundance of caution as to not get COVID on the ship. There's a strict divide between the ecp and people on each side. The only people semi-mingling are the caretakers taking patients from the ambulance. Even ambulance personnel aren't allowed to cross the line. We recommended RDML (b) (6) as he is the lead flag officer of the ground operation here.

The press conference will not be on the pier either, rather across the water (about 500 yards- if that) at a park where the entire ship will be the backdrop. We drove the area yesterday and I think it will be the best backdrop possible, even more preferred than being on the pier.

Vr

(b) (6)

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(www.blackberry.com)

---

**From:** (b) (6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Date:** Thursday, Mar 26, 2020, 4:55 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) CDR USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Cc:** (b) (6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) CDR USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) CDR USN (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) CIV USN (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) MCPO USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) LCDR USN (US) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) LT USN SECOND FLEET (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** RE: MERCY Arrival

Thanks for this info, (b) (6) — glad to see State/FEMA taking primary roles in a joint presser for MERCY arrival, and roger their approach with media due to COVID — as it should be.

Can you clarify about MTF CO? ... is presser not on same pier as ship? Also- pls ensure you have full access for DVIDS.

Roger on the media advisory, and looking forward to the overall/detailed plan later today.

V/r, (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) CDR USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Date:** Thursday, Mar 26, 2020, 1:54 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Cc:** (b) (6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) CDR USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) USN (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) CIV USN (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** MERCY Arrival

Sir,

Gov. (b) (6), FEMA Region 9 Director, the Adj General of CA Nat'l Guard, and CAL OES Director will visit Pier 93 early Friday afternoon.

Gov. (b) (6) will host a joint press conference at that time. We don't know the exact participants just yet but it will likely be the Mayor or his appointed rep joining along with a senior Navy rep., possibly RDML (b) (6) (ESG 3 and ashore mission lead) as the MTF CO will be unable to leave the pier. The Gov's office and Mayor's office both want as small of a media footprint as possible due to COVID-19, and will go with the pool approach.

We intend to issue a media advisory Thursday afternoon announcing MERCY's projected arrival time so media are able to position themselves in locations of their choosing around the greater port area (but not inside the port facility) and capture MERCY pulling in.

V/r,

(b) (6)

CDR (b) (6)  
Special Assistant for Public Affairs to  
Commander, U.S. Third Fleet  
Fleet Public Affairs Officer  
Email: (b) (6) (SIPR: + .smil)  
Phone: (b) (6)

"America was not built on fear. America was built on courage, on imagination, and an unbeatable determination to do the job at hand." — Harry S Truman, 33rd President of the United States



(b)(6)

## USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)

**From:** (b)(6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 21, 2020 11:48 AM  
**To:** (b)(6) MCPO USN USFFC (USA); (b)(6) LT USN NPASE WEST SAN CA (USA)  
**Cc:** (b)(6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA); (b)(6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA); (b)(6) CIV USN COMSC NORFOLK VA (USA); (b)(6) CIV USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA); (b)(6) LCDR USN (US); (b)(6) LCDR USN USFFC (USA); (b)(6) CIV USN USFFC (USA); (b)(6) LT USN SECOND FLEET (USA)  
**Subject:** RE: MERCY Second Sentence and Hashtag for Review  
**Signed By:** (b)(6)

Thanks Master Chief. We have MERCY photos pending approval in DVIDS, but I will hold approval until I get the thumbs up for your caption.

Very Respectfully,

LT (b)(6), APR+M  
Deputy Public Affairs Officer  
Commander, U.S. Third Fleet  
COMM: (b)(6)

NIPR: (b)(6)

---

**From:** (b)(6) MCPO USN USFFC (USA) <(b)(6)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 21, 2020 11:44 AM  
**To:** (b)(6) LT USN NPASE WEST SAN CA (USA) <(b)(6)>  
**Cc:** (b)(6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA) <(b)(6)>; (b)(6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA) <(b)(6)>; (b)(6) CIV USN COMSC NORFOLK VA (USA) <(b)(6)>; (b)(6) CIV USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA) <(b)(6)>; (b)(6) LCDR USN (US) <(b)(6)>; (b)(6) LCDR USN USFFC (USA) <(b)(6)>; (b)(6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b)(6)>; (b)(6) CIV USN USFFC (USA) <(b)(6)>; (b)(6) LT USN SECOND FLEET (USA) <(b)(6)>  
**Subject:** RE: MERCY Second Sentence and Hashtag for Review

Thanks, LT. Also (b)(6) in the NORTHCOM/C2F/MSO teams—please provide suggested edits/improvements to the below. Also, any issues with the hashtag #ReadyOnArrival?

Mercy deployed today in support of the nation's COVID-19 response efforts and will serve as a referral hospital for non-COVID-19 patients currently admitted to shore-based hospitals. This allows shore-based hospitals to use their Intensive Care Units and ventilators for COVID-19 patients. The Defense Department is supporting

the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the lead federal agency, as well as state, local and public health authorities in helping protect the health and safety of the American people.

Thanks.

V/r,  
Master Chief (b)(6)  
U.S. Fleet Forces Command  
Fleet Mass Communication Specialist  
Office: (b)(6)  
Cell: (b)(6)

---

**From:** (b)(6) LT USN NPASE WEST SAN CA (USA) <(b)(6)>

**Sent:** Saturday, March 21, 2020 2:05 PM

**To:** (b)(6) MCPO USN USFFC (USA) <(b)(6)>

**Cc:** (b)(6) CIV USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA) <(b)(6)>; (b)(6)

A LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b)(6)>

**Subject:** MERCY Second Sentence and Hashtag for Review

Good morning MCCM,

Reaching out to see if you could assist with review/approval up the chain of the following second sentence and the hashtag #ReadyOnArrival that we would like to use on Monday.

“Mercy deployed in support of the nation’s COVID-19 response efforts and serves as a referral hospital for non-COVID-19 patients currently admitted to shore-based hospitals. This allows shore-based hospitals to use their Intensive Care Units and ventilators for COVID-19 patients.”

Standing by for any questions or concerns.

Thank you!

Very respectfully,  
LT (b)(6)  
P-Deputy Public Affairs Officer  
Commander, U.S. Third Fleet

(b)(6)

(b) (6)

## PO1 USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)

**From:** (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 24, 2020 7:30 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA); (b) (6); (b) (6) CDR USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)  
**Cc:** (b) (6) CDR USN NPASE NORFOLK VA (USA); (b) (6) RDML CHINFO, OI-00; (b) (6) CIV USN USFFC (US); (b) (6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA); (b) (6) MCPO USN NPASE NORFOLK VA (USA); (b) (6) CIV USN COMSC NORFOLK VA (USA); (b) (6) CAPT USN NPASE NORFOLK VA (USA); (b) (6) MCPO USN USFFC (USA); (b) (6) CIV USN COMSC NORFOLK VA (USA); (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: [Non-DoD Source] Re: URGENT FYSA - MERCY and the Balboa MTF

Ma'am-

Incoming this morning, waiting for the final list from Team Mercy.

Vr

(b) (6)

Sent with BlackBerry Work  
(www.blackberry.com)

---

**From:** (b) (6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Date:** Monday, Mar 23, 2020, 6:37 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) CDR USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Cc:** (b) (6) CDR USN NPASE NORFOLK VA (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) RDML CHINFO, OI-00 <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) CIV USN USFFC (US) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) MCPO USN NPASE NORFOLK VA (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) CIV USN COMSC NORFOLK VA (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) CAPT USN NPASE NORFOLK VA (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) MCPO USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) CIV USN COMSC NORFOLK VA (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** RE: [Non-DoD Source] Re: URGENT FYSA - MERCY and the Balboa MTF

Thanks, (b) (6)

Team C3F,  
Could you provide an updated list of the actual team embarked on MERCY?

V/r,

(b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6) <(b) (6)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 23, 2020 6:23 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Cc:** (b) (6) CDR USN NPASE NORFOLK VA (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) RDML CHINFO, OI-00 <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) CDR USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) CIV

USN USFFC (US) <(b) (6)>; (b) (6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)>;  
(b) (6) MCPO USN NPASE NORFOLK VA (USA) <(b) (6)>; (b) (6) CIV USN  
COMSC NORFOLK VA (USA) <(b) (6)>; (b) (6) CAPT USN NPASE NORFOLK VA (USA)  
<(b) (6)>; (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>; (b) (6)  
MCPO USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)>; (b) (6) CIV USN COMSC NORFOLK VA (USA)  
<(b) (6)>; (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: [Non-DoD Source] Re: URGENT FYSA - MERCY and the Balboa MTF

All:

Couple of quick updates:

1. LT (b) (6) actually never initiated orders, and he did not report anywhere today. He was at his civ job.
2. The three MCs referenced are active duty — they're assigned to Balboa. (I don't know if anyone has connected with them to turn them off.)
3. The three reserve MCs who had volunteered for the Comfort mission have been told to stand down. If you see their names on anything, it's just a doc that hasn't been updated.
4. I've asked both OSOs (Med Forces Atlantic/Pacific) to call me before sourcing any other reserve PA assets for this mission. I don't think that will be an issue, though — BUMED also has confirmed they're canceling the support request.

We should have the silly string back in the can, but please let me know if anything else pops up.

Thanks!

V/r,

(b) (6)  
(b) (6)

On Mon, Mar 23, 2020 at 5:03 PM (b) (6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)>  
> wrote:

Thanks, (b) (6).

CAPT (b) (6) APR  
Deputy Director, Fleet Public Affairs

U.S. Fleet Forces Command

(b) (6) <tel:(b) (6)> (o)  
(b) (6) <tel:(b) (6)> (c)  
(b) (6) > NIPR  
(b) (6) > SIPR

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>>  
Date: Monday, Mar 23, 2020, 5:01 PM  
To: (b) (6) RDML CHINFO, OI-00 <(b) (6)>>  
Cc: (b) (6) CDR USN NPASE NORFOLK VA (USA)  
<(b) (6)>>, (b) (6) CDR USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)  
<(b) (6)>>, (b) (6) CIV USN USFFC (US)  
<(b) (6)>>, (b) (6) CAPT USN USFFC  
(USA) <(b) (6)>>, (b) (6) MCPO USN  
NPASE NORFOLK VA (USA) <(b) (6)>>,  
(b) (6) CIV USN COMSC NORFOLK VA (USA)  
<(b) (6)>>, (b) (6) CAPT USN NPASE NORFOLK VA  
(USA) <(b) (6)>>, (b) (6) LT USN  
COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>,  
(b) (6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)>>,  
(b) (6) MCPO USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)>>,  
(b) (6) CIV USN COMSC NORFOLK VA (USA)  
<(b) (6)>>, (b) (6)  
>

Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: URGENT FYSA - MERCY and the Balboa MTF

MCCM (b) (6) and I are contacting these sailors, and their chains of command, to turn them off. We are doing the same with the sailors who had orders routing for Comfort.

We had told everyone we knew about yesterday to stand by while we chased down the requirement and that we were expect this to be canceled. We told them all not to travel without further instruction, and to let us know if they heard anything further from outside the public affairs community.

Their names may pop up on manning documents for both ships while we undo all of this.

The others we are aware of are (b) (6), (b) (6) and (b) (6). Please let me know if you get any others and I'll get them fixed. (The three enlisted folks below are names we hadn't seen before. We were already talking to Seymour.)

I also have asked BUMED to turn off the request for reservists that they sent to CNRFC. The OSOs at Medical Forces Atlantic/Pacific could not do that without direction from BUMED, although we did get the advertisements taken down.

Will confirm once we get them canceled, but if anyone DOES show up where they shouldn't be, or otherwise makes contact, please have them call me at (b) (6).

Thanks!

V/r,

(b) (6)

On Mon, Mar 23, 2020 at 3:59 (b) (6) RDML CHINFO, OI-00

(b) (6) >> wrote:

+ CAPT (b) (6)

From: (b) (6) RDML CHINFO, OI-00

Sent: Monday, March 23, 2020 3:54 PM

To: (b) (6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)>

>>; (b) (6) CAPT USN NPASE NORFOLK VA (USA)

<(b) (6)>>; (b) (6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA)

<(b) (6)>>; (b) (6) MCPO USN USFFC

(USA) <(b) (6)>

(b) (6)

<(b) (6)>

Cc: (b) (6) CDR USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)

(b) (6) >>; (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT

(USA) <(b) (6)>>; (b) (6) CDR USN

NPASE NORFOLK VA (USA) <(b) (6)>>; (b) (6)

MCPO USN NPASE NORFOLK VA (USA)

<(b) (6)>>; (b) (6) CIV USN

USFFC (US) <(b) (6)>>; (b) (6)

CIV USN COMSC NORFOLK VA (USA) <(b) (6)>>;

(b) (6) CIV USN COMSC NORFOLK VA (USA)

<(b) (6)>>

Subject: RE: URGENT FYSA - MERCY and the Balboa MTF

Please understand that these folks reported because a formal request was put out by CNFRC with a POC on the AC side who created orders for them.

They didn't just choose to show up uninvited.

COS, send home who you can. Most of those SD people are local anyway.

v/r,

(b) (6)

From: (b) (6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)>

>>

Sent: Monday, March 23, 2020 3:48 PM

To: (b) (6) CAPT USN NPASE NORFOLK VA (USA)

<(b) (6)>>; (b) (6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA)

<(b) (6)>>; (b) (6) MCPO USN USFFC

(USA) <(b) (6)>

(b) (6)

<(b) (6)>

Cc: (b) (6) CDR USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)

(b) (6) >>; (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT

(USA) <(b) (6)>; (b) (6) CDR USN  
NPASE NORFOLK VA (USA) <(b) (6)>; (b) (6)  
MCPO USN NPASE NORFOLK VA (USA)  
<(b) (6)>; (b) (6) CIV USN  
USFFC (US) <(b) (6)>; (b) (6) RDML  
CHINFO, OI-00 <(b) (6)>; (b) (6) CIV USN  
COMSC NORFOLK VA (USA) <(b) (6)>; (b) (6)  
(b) (6) CIV USN COMSC NORFOLK VA (USA)  
<(b) (6)>>  
Subject: RE: URGENT FYSA - MERCY and the Balboa MTF

Urg... This is crazy!!!  
Thanks, (b) (6).

(b) (6),  
Another case of PAOs and MCs reporting for mission without our knowledge! If you have comms or POC with Balboa, please connect them ASAP with CDR (b) (6) the MERCY mission PAO.

Team C3F,  
See below... 4 more PA assets onboard that we weren't tracking. NPASE team is trying to track them down. You have NAVNORTH authority to ensure they do not release any product off-ship without routing through LCDR (b) (6) and team.

Thanks and V/r,

(b) (6)  
CAPT (b) (6), APR  
Deputy Director, Fleet Public Affairs  
U.S. Fleet Forces Command

(b) (6) <tel:(b) (6)> (o)  
(b) (6) <tel:(b) (6)> (c)  
(b) (6)  
(b) (6) > NIPR  
(b) (6) > SIPR

From: (b) (6) CAPT USN NPASE NORFOLK VA (USA)  
<(b) (6)>>

Date: Monday, Mar 23, 2020, 3:35 PM

To: (b) (6) RDML CHINFO, OI-00 <(b) (6)>; (b) (6)  
(b) (6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)>; (b) (6)  
(b) (6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)>  
>>, (b) (6) MCPO USN NPASE NORFOLK VA (USA)  
<(b) (6)>; (b) (6) CDR USN  
NPASE NORFOLK VA (USA) <(b) (6)>; (b) (6)  
MCPO USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)>>

Subject: URGENT FYSA - MERCY and the Balboa MTF

All

FYSA below. Mercy x6 PA TEAM + 4 PA types extra.

VR. (b) (6)  
Sent with BlackBerry Work

([www.blackberry.com](http://www.blackberry.com)<[http://www.blackberry.noclick\\_com](http://www.blackberry.noclick_com)>)

From: (b) (6) CIV USN NPASE NORFOLK VA (USA)

<(b) (6)>>

Date: Monday, Mar 23, 2020, 3:28 PM

To: (b) (6) CAPT USN NPASE NORFOLK VA (USA)

<(b) (6)>>

Cc: (b) (6) CDR USN NPASE NORFOLK VA (USA)

<(b) (6)>>, (b) (6) MCPO USN NPASE NORFOLK  
VA (USA) <(b) (6)>>

Subject: MERCY and the Balboa MTF

Sir,

Just found out that the MTF in Balboa has a Reserve 1655 PAO LT (b) (6) and three MCs MCSN (b) (6), MC3 (b) (6) and MC3 (b) (6). C3F had no idea that these Sailors were even getting on the MERCY. MCC (b) (6) is tracking them down and I told MCCM (b) (6) that LCDR (b) (6) and MCC need to get them together and let them understand that they all work as one team. Not sure on if they have gear still gather more info. I'll send it to you all once I know more.

Standing by for questions.

V/R

(b) (6)

NPASE OPSO

(b) (6)

--

CAPT (b) (6)

Chief of Staff for the Vice Chief of Information

(b) (6)

--

CAPT (b) (6)

Chief of Staff for the Vice Chief of Information

(b) (6)



**PO1 USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)**

1

Please work these today.

Sent with BlackBerry Work  
(www.blackberry.com)

---

**From:** (b) (6) CDR USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Date:** Monday, Mar 23, 2020, 11:07 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)>  
<(b) (6)>  
**Cc:** (b) (6) LCDR USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) LCDR USN (US) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) LT USN SECOND FLEET (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** RE: Tours and Positive COVID Cases

Thanks and copy on the statements. We'll get to work on those w/ C2F.

V/r,  
(b) (6)

CDR (b) (6)  
Special Assistant for Public Affairs to  
Commander, U.S. Third Fleet  
Fleet Public Affairs Officer  
Email: (b) (6) (SIPR: + .smil)  
Phone: (b) (6)

"America was not built on fear. America was built on courage, on imagination, and an unbeatable determination to do the job at hand." — Harry S Truman, 33rd President of the United States

---

**From:** (b) (6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Date:** Monday, Mar 23, 2020, 9:07 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) CDR USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)>  
<(b) (6)>  
**Cc:** (b) (6) LCDR USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) LCDR USN (US) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) LT USN SECOND FLEET (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** RE: Tours and Positive COVID Cases

Yes to 1st question.

2nd question- think you/C2F should put together a few draft holding statements:

- 1) COVID case underway
- 2) Internal COVID case following arrival
- 3) patient/external COVID following arrival

Thanks!

V/r, (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) CDR USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Date:** Monday, Mar 23, 2020, 8:25 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)>  
>  
**Cc:** (b) (6) LCDR USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)  
<(b) (6)>, (b) (6) LCDR USN (US) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6)  
<(b) (6)> LT USN SECOND FLEET (USA) <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** Tours and Positive COVID Cases

Sir/Ma'am, .. are we cleared to officially say 'no' on tours/emnbarks? Also, was discussing with VADM (b) (6) about how we would publicly handle any positive COVID cases that pop up on MERCY. I think we need to make those public once we know there's a confirmed positive case (not identifying the individual of course). If we sit on them and the media gets them and talks about them first, we're going to get hammered. Think we need to be very transparent.

Thoughts?

V/r,  
(b) (6)

CDR (b) (6)  
Special Asst. for Public Affairs to Commander, U.S. 3rd Fleet  
Fleet Public Affairs Officer  
Email: (b) (6) (SIPR: + .smil)  
Phone: (b) (6)

(b) (6)

**PO1 USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)**

**From:** (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 26, 2020 3:27 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA); (b) (6) LT; (b) (6) CDR USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA); (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA); (b) (6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA); (b) (6) LT USN SECOND FLEET (USA); (b) (6) LCDR USN (US); (b) (6) MCPO USN USFFC (USA)  
**Cc:** (b) (6) LCDR; (b) (6) LT; (b) (6) MCC  
**Subject:** Re: USNS Mercy Daily SITREP  
**Attachments:** USNS Mercy Arrival Communication Overview.docx

Team

Simple, but more details attached about tomorrow's events.

VR/

(b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 25, 2020 2:43 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) LT; (b) (6) CDR USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA); (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA); (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA); (b) (6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA); (b) (6) LT USN SECOND FLEET (USA); (b) (6) LCDR USN (US); (b) (6) MCPO USN USFFC (USA)  
**Cc:** (b) (6) LCDR; (b) (6) LT; (b) (6) MCC  
**Subject:** RE: USNS Mercy Daily SITREP

Thanks for the feedback, (b) (6) – keep us updated as you get things set up for tomorrow – especially if you're doing the morning shows tomorrow.

Then please follow-up with what you've done or what else you have planned by 1300 your time tomorrow.

And thank you for reaching out to (b) (6) today as well!

Go MERCY team!

V/r, (b) (6)

CAPT (b) (6)  
USFF PAO

From: (b) (6) LT <(b) (6)>  
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 5:09 PM  
To: (b) (6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)>; (b) (6)  
(b) (6) CDR USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>; (b) (6)  
(b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>;  
(b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>;  
(b) (6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)>;  
(b) (6) LT USN SECOND FLEET (USA)  
<(b) (6)>; (b) (6) A LCDR USN (US)  
<(b) (6)>; (b) (6) MCPO USN USFFC (USA)  
<(b) (6)>  
Cc: (b) (6) LCDR <(b) (6)>; (b) (6) LT  
<(b) (6)>; (b) (6) MCC  
<(b) (6)>  
Subject: RE: USNS Mercy Daily SITREP

CAPT,

Good afternoon sir, requests for national broadcast news were late yesterday and got no reply until the morning. Currently coordinating with Fox and Friends for tomorrow morning and awaiting reply from CBS This Morning to do the same. As other national broadcast requests come in we will make sure those are prioritized.

Interviews we were able to get scheduled for today are:

KFI Radio - @1500

SoCal News Group (Print) – @1515

Will reach out to (b) (6) to get an interview scheduled.

V/r.

LT (b) (6)

Public Affairs Officer

Navy Public Affairs Support Element (NPASE) West ISO USNS Mercy (T-AH 19)

COVID-19 Response Office Location: NGO Lounge

Cell: (b) (6)

Jdial: (b) (6)

From: (b) (6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)>  
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 1:20 PM  
To: (b) (6) LT <(b) (6)>; (b) (6) CDR  
USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>; (b) (6) LT  
USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>; (b) (6)  
LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>; (b) (6)  
CAPT USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)>; (b) (6)  
(b) (6) LT USN SECOND FLEET (USA) <(b) (6)>;  
(b) (6) LCDR USN (US) <(b) (6)>; (b) (6)  
(b) (6) MCPO USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)>  
Cc: (b) (6) LCDR <(b) (6)>; (b) (6) LT  
<(b) (6)>; (b) (6) MCC  
<(b) (6)>  
Subject: RE: USNS Mercy Daily SITREP  
Importance: High

MERCY Team,  
Need some action/feedback soonest.

- 1) Please let us know which interviews you did today – as stated this morning, priority was to execute national broadcast requests – did you do CBS This Morning and Fox and Friends as listed on your spreadsheet?
- 2) RDML (b) (6) (CHINFO) asks that you get a call in to (b) (6) today as well (AP, Pentagon Press Corps) – should be an easy one; request is for the ship captain or surgical staff regarding preparations.

Please acknowledge receipt of this e-mail and provide feedback.  
Thank you, and keep up the great work!  
V/r, Scott

CAPT (b) (6)  
USFF PAO

From: (b) (6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA)  
<(b) (6)>>  
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 6:26 AM

To: (b) (6) LT  
<(b) (6)>>;  
(b) (6) CDR USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)  
<(b) (6)>>; (b) (6) LT  
USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)  
(b) (6)>>; (b) (6)  
(b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)  
<(b) (6)>>; (b) (6)  
CAPT USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)>>;  
>>; (b) (6) LT USN SECOND FLEET  
(USA) <(b) (6)>>; (b) (6)  
(b) (6) LCDR USN (US)  
<(b) (6)>>; (b) (6)  
(b) (6) MCPO USN USFFC (USA)  
<(b) (6)>>  
Cc: (b) (6) LCDR  
<(b) (6)>>;  
(b) (6) LT  
(b) (6)>>;  
(b) (6) MCC  
<(b) (6)>>  
Subject: RE: USNS Mercy Daily SITREP

Looks good, (b) (6); nice job on CNN yesterday to you all and CAPT (b) (6)  
(who has consistently been great)!

Priority is to conduct other national broadcast requests today — From your  
spreadsheet looks like CBS This Morning and Fox and Friends.

Thank you!

V/r, (b) (6)

CAPT (b) (6)  
USFF PAO

From: (b) (6) LT  
<(b) (6)>>  
Date: Wednesday, Mar 25, 2020, 1:41 AM  
To: (b) (6) CDR USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)  
<(b) (6)>>, (b) (6) LT

USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)

< (b) (6) >>, (b) (6)

LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)

< (b) (6) >>, (b) (6)

CAPT USN USFFC (USA)

< (b) (6) >>, (b) (6)

CAPT USN USFFC (USA) < (b) (6)

>>, (b) (6)

LT USN SECOND FLEET

(USA) < (b) (6) < (b) (6) >>, (b) (6)

LCDR USN (US)

< (b) (6) >>, (b) (6)

MCPO USN USFFC (USA)

< (b) (6) >>

Cc: (b) (6) LCDR

< (b) (6) >>,

LT

< (b) (6) >>,

MCC

< (b) (6) >>

Subject: USNS Mercy Daily SITREP

ALCON,

Attached is our daily USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) SITREP. Also attached is our Media Request Tracker.

V/r.

LT (b) (6)

Navy Public Affairs Support Element (NPASE) West ISO USNS Mercy (T-AH 19)  
COVID-19 Response Office Location: NGO Lounge

Cell: (b) (6)

Jdial: (b) (6)



## USNS Mercy Arrival Communication Overview



### 0830 Ship Arrival

MCs stationed at main channel look out (above) to get arrival still and video imagery

MCs stationed at pier to get arrival still and video imagery

TBD Trying to get video of the “patient path” before patient arrival on Saturday

### 1200 Governor Arrival

**1230** Governor Newsom, (b) (6) (Los Angeles), (b) (6) (FEMA District 9), and Navy Representative (either RDML (b) (6) [ESG-3] or VADM (b) (6) [C3F]) meet at cruise ship terminal for “patient path” walk through

**TBD** Transition to executive-level brief from Mayor Garcetti on local impact of hospital ship

**TBD** Transition to small press avail with pool press only (identified by the Gov. office)

(b) (6)

**PO1 USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)**

---

**From:** (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 22, 2020 5:57 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) CIV USN NAVMED WEST SAN CA (USA)  
**Subject:** RE: USNS Mercy Departure Media Prep Package

(b) (6),

No worries! I have the correct remarks in the podium binder for sure, I just double checked!

V/r,

(b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6) CIV USN NAVMED WEST SAN CA (USA)

<(b) (6)>

**Sent:** Sunday, March 22, 2020 5:51 PM

**To:** (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)

<(b) (6)>

**Subject:** RE: USNS Mercy Departure Media Prep Package

Hi there!

I noticed the prep package didn't have RDML (b) (6) updated remarks...so I'm pasting them below. They If you could please make sure they get included, I'd appreciate it!

Good morning, everyone. My name is Rear Admiral (b) (6) and I am the commander of Naval Medical Forces Pacific, responsible for Navy Medicine's assets, including personnel in military treatment facilities, on the West Coast and Pacific Rim.

People are Navy Medicine's greatest strength. We stand ready to support the nation today, as directed by our civilian leadership, because of the hard work and dedication of the Navy Medicine team. In a matter of days, we have assembled an incredible crew of more than 800 medical professionals who will

embark on the Mercy to lift the burden off local hospitals so they can focus on caring for patients with COVID-19.

The USNS Mercy and its MTF staff and civilian mariners are ready for their mission in support of local health authorities and the communities overwhelmed by this pandemic. Even though this is not our traditional mission, which is typically combat casualty care, our doctors, nurses, corpsmen, pharmacists, laboratory professionals, and many other medical professionals are agile, responsive, and ready to serve the needs of our nation.

We are honored to answer the call in this time of need, we are committed to protecting the health of our force and the health of our nation-we are, as the USNS Mercy's motto says, steaming to assist.

Now, I'd like to introduce, Captain (b) (6), the commanding officer of the USNS Mercy's Medical Treatment Facility.

# # #

Thank you so much!!!

(b) (6)  
Public Affairs Officer  
Naval Medical Forces Pacific  
O: (b) (6)  
C: (b) (6)  
DSN: (b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)  
(b) (6)  
Sent: Sunday, March 22, 2020 5:38 PM  
To: (b) (6) CAPT USN COMSC NORFOLK VA (USA)  
<(b) (6)>; (b) (6) CAPT USN (USA)  
<(b) (6)>; (b) (6) CIV USN COMSC NORFOLK  
VA (USA)  
<(b) (6)>

Cc: (b) (6) CDR USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>;  
(b) (6)  
(b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>;  
(b) (6); (b) (6) CIV USN NAVMED WEST SAN CA  
(USA)  
<(b) (6)>; (b) (6) LT USN NPASE WEST  
SAN CA  
(USA) <(b) (6)>; (b) (6)  
<(b) (6)>;  
(b) (6) LT USN NPASE WEST SAN CA (USA)  
<(b) (6)>;  
(b) (6) LT USN COMEXSTRKGRU THREE (USA)  
<(b) (6)>  
Subject: USNS Mercy Departure Media Prep Package

Good evening Gentlemen,

Attached is the most up-to-date media preparation package, in preparation for our 0930 meeting tomorrow in the ESG-3 conference room.

The major changes from this morning's version are as follows:

- \* Los Angeles as the destination.
- \* Until directed otherwise, we have been told to remain with the talking point of a "1000-bed capacity".
- \* Q17 (How was it determined to go to Los Angeles versus other major coastal cities, such as Seattle and San Francisco?)'s response was updated to reflect the POTUS/FEMA press conference earlier today.

Standing by for any questions or concerns.

Very respectfully,

LT (b) (6)

P-Deputy Public Affairs Officer

Commander, U.S. Third Fleet

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

**PO1 USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)**

---

**From:** (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)  
**Sent:** Friday, March 20, 2020 4:58 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) LT USN NPASE WEST SAN CA (USA); (b) (6) CDR USN  
NAVBASE SAN DIEGO CA (USA); (b) (6) CIV USN NAVBASE SAN DIEGO CA  
(USA); (b) (6) CDR USN ESG 3 (USA); (b) (6) Maj USMC USN  
COMEXSTRKGRU THREE (USA); (b) (6) LT USN COMEXSTRKGRU THREE (USA)  
**Cc:** (b) (6) CDR USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA); (b) (6) CIV USN (USA); (b) (6)  
(b) (6) CTR (USA)  
**Subject:** RE: USNS Mercy Press Briefing  
**Signed By:** (b) (6)

All,

My apologies for the double tap, but please confirm NLT COB tomorrow when the bridge is tested and that the rooms are reserved. Thank you.

Very Respectfully,

LT (b) (6), APR+M  
Deputy Public Affairs Officer  
Commander, U.S. Third Fleet

COMM: (b) (6)

DSN: (b) (6)

NIPR: (b) (6)

SIPR: (b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6) LT USN NPASE WEST SAN CA (USA)

<(b) (6)>

**Sent:** Friday, March 20, 2020 4:57 PM

**To:** (b) (6) CDR USN NAVBASE SAN DIEGO CA (USA)

<(b) (6)>; (b) (6) CIV USN NAVBASE SAN  
DIEGO CA (USA)

<(b) (6)>; (b) (6) CDR USN ESG 3 (USA)

<(b) (6)>; (b) (6) Maj USMC USN  
COMEXSTRKGRU  
THREE (USA) <(b) (6)>; (b) (6) LT USN  
COMEXSTRKGRU  
THREE (USA) <(b) (6)>  
Cc: (b) (6) CDR USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>;  
(b) (6)  
(b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>;  
(b) (6)  
(b) (6) CIV USN (USA) <(b) (6)>; (b) (6) CTR (USA)  
<(b) (6)>  
Subject: RE: USNS Mercy Press Briefing

Good afternoon Gentlemen,

To clarify, we are looking to book both spaces (at NBSD and ESG-3) from 0900-1300 on Monday to facilitate both leadership preparation and the complete Pentagon Press Corps VTC.

We would also like to request confirmation once the bridge is tested with the Pentagon.

Standing by for questions or concerns.

Thank you!

Very respectfully,  
LT (b) (6)  
P-Deputy Public Affairs Officer  
Commander, U.S. Third Fleet

(b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) CIV USN (USA) <(b) (6)>

Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 3:11 PM

To: (b) (6) CDR USN OSD PA (USA)  
<(b) (6)>;  
(b) (6) CIV OSD PA (USA) <(b) (6)>;  
(b) (6) CIV USN NAVBASE SAN DIEGO CA (USA)  
<(b) (6)>; (b) (6) CTR (USA) <(b) (6)>; (b) (6) LT USN  
COMEXSTRKGRU THREE (USA) <(b) (6)>  
Cc: (b) (6) CDR USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>;  
(b) (6) CAPT USN COMNAVAIRLANT (USA)  
<(b) (6)>; (b) (6) CAPT USN OSD PA (USA)  
<(b) (6)>; (b) (6) CIV OSD PA (USA)  
<(b) (6)>; (b) (6) LTC USARMY OSD  
PA  
(USA) <(b) (6)>; (b) (6) CDR USN (USA)  
<(b) (6)>; (b) (6) CDR USN CHINFO  
WASHINGTON DC  
(USA) <(b) (6)>; (b) (6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA)  
<(b) (6)>; (b) (6) LT USN NPASE WEST SAN  
CA  
(USA) <(b) (6)>; (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT  
(USA)  
<(b) (6)>  
Subject: RE: USNS Mercy Press Briefing

(b) (6), thank you.

(b) (6), there will be a request from two San Diego commands for a test:  
Naval base San Diego and Expeditionary Strike Group 3. I've added CDR (b) (6)  
(b) (6) and (b) (6), XO and IT respectively from the base, and LT (b) (6)  
(b) (6) from ESG-3.

Appreciate the quick assist, all.

Best,

(b) (6)

(b) (6)



Media Relations Officer  
Navy Region Southwest

(b) (6) office  
(b) (6) cell  
(b) (6)  
(b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) CDR USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>  
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 2:03 PM  
To: (b) (6) CDR USN OSD PA (USA)  
<(b) (6)>  
Cc: (b) (6) CIV OSD PA (USA) <(b) (6)>;  
(b) (6) CAPT USN OSD PA (USA) <(b) (6)>;  
(b) (6),  
(b) (6) CIV OSD PA (USA) <(b) (6)>;  
(b) (6) LTC USARMY OSD PA (USA)  
<(b) (6)>; (b) (6) CDR USN (USA)  
<(b) (6)>; (b) (6) CDR USN CHINFO  
WASHINGTON DC  
(USA) <(b) (6)>; (b) (6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA)  
<(b) (6)>; (b) (6) LT USN NPASE WEST SAN  
CA  
(USA) <(b) (6)>; (b) (6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT  
(USA)  
<(b) (6)>; (b) (6) CIV USN (USA)  
<(b) (6)>  
Subject: RE: USNS Mercy Press Briefing

Thanks Magical. I'm cc'ing LTs (b) (6) and (b) (6), and (b) (6) from  
Region Southwest who's going to help us execute.

V/r,

(b) (6)

CDR (b) (6)  
Special Asst. for Public Affairs to Commander, U.S. 3rd Fleet  
Fleet Public Affairs Officer  
Email: (b) (6) (SIPR: + .smil)  
Phone: (b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) CDR USN OSD PA (USA)  
<(b) (6)>

Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 1:03 PM

To: (b) (6) CDR USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA) <(b) (6)>  
Cc: (b) (6) CIV OSD PA (USA) <(b) (6)>;  
(b) (6) CAPT USN OSD PA (USA) <(b) (6)>;  
(b) (6) CIV OSD PA (USA) <(b) (6)>;  
(b) (6) LTC USARMY OSD PA (USA) <(b) (6)>;  
<(b) (6)>; (b) (6) CDR USN (USA)  
<(b) (6)>; (b) (6) CDR USN CHINFO  
WASHINGTON DC  
(USA) <(b) (6)>; (b) (6) CAPT USN USFFC (USA)  
<(b) (6)>  
Subject: USNS Mercy Press Briefing

(b) (6),

If this is go for next Monday afternoon, wanted to link you up with (b) (6)  
(b) (6), PBR Studio Chief, to work logistical issues.

V/r,

(b) (6)

CDR (b) (6)  
Office of the Secretary of Defense Public Affairs (OSD PA)  
Strategy, Plans & Assessment  
Pentagon Room #2E977  
Email: (b) (6)

Office:

(b) (6)

Mobile:

(b) (6)

(b)(6)

**PO1 USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)**

**From:** (b)(6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 22, 2020 2:55 PM  
**To:** (b)(6) CDR USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)  
**Cc:** (b)(6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA); (b)(6) C SCPO USN DMA  
PROD (USA)  
**Subject:** USNS Mercy Departure SOE and Production Plan

Good afternoon (b)(6)

Below is the USNS Mercy Departure SOE and Production Plan, as requested.

BT

USNS Mercy Departure ISO COVID-19 Response Efforts  
Naval Base San Diego, March 23, 2020

**Principals:**

Rear Adm. (b)(6) (b)(6) Forces Pacific  
Capt. (b)(6) (b)(6) Medical Treatment Facility USNS Mercy (T-AH 19)  
Capt. (b)(6) (b)(6) Destroyer Squadron 21  
Capt. (b)(6) (b)(6) USNS Mercy (T-AH 19)

**Schedule of Events:**

0930-1030 Media Availability Principals preparation session (ESG-3 Conference Room)  
1130-1230 Pentagon Press Corps Conference Call (ESG-3 Conference Room)  
1200-1245 Media Arrive NBSD – Security Sweeps and Medical Screenings Conducted, Caravan to Pier for set-up  
1300-1330 Media Availability pier-side with MERCY in background (Pier 1)  
Brief remarks given by Rear Adm. (b)(6) and Capt. (b)(6)  
Q&A with all principals  
1400 MERCY Departure (Pier 1)  
1430 Media escorted off base

**Production Plan:**

4xMCs (2xPhoto, 2xVideo) to capture media availability and ship departure from pier  
2xMCs to capture ship departure past NASNI (Photo and B-roll video)  
\*1-hour upload requirement

BT

Please let me know if you have any additional questions!

Very respectfully,

LT (b)(6)  
P-Deputy Public Affairs Officer  
Commander, U.S. Third Fleet

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

**PO1 USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)**

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**From:** (b)(6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 26, 2020 3:09 PM  
**To:** 'kcbstvpublicaffairs@cbs.com'  
**Subject:** USNS Mercy Story Correction

Good afternoon,

I am trying to reach out to someone at CBS2/KCAL9 regarding the story "USNS Mercy To Arrive Today, Will Not Affect Port Of LA Operations" by Suzanne Marques, to provide a story correction.

USNS Mercy is expected to arrive at the Port of Los Angeles on Friday, March 27, 2020.

Please call me at your earliest convenience.

Thank you!

Very respectfully,

LT (b)(6)  
P-Deputy Public Affairs Officer  
Commander, U.S. Third Fleet

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

**PO1 USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)**

---

**From:** (b)(6) LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)  
**Sent:** Monday, March 23, 2020 7:11 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Cc:** LT USN COMTHIRDFLT (USA)  
**Subject:** USNS MERCY

Hi (b)(6) !

For b-roll, we have posted a ton at [dvidshub.net](http://dvidshub.net). All you need to do is search “USNS Mercy” and you’ll find b-roll and still imagery.

Please let me know how else I can help- additionally I’ve logged you as an invite to the arrival event in Los Angeles. We will not be facilitating tours of the ship on arrival but we will be pushing out b-roll of the inside of the ship this week!

Very Respectfully,

LT (b)(6)

Sent with BlackBerry Work  
([www.blackberry.com](http://www.blackberry.com))